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THE FENTON FAMILY

OF

AMERICA AND GREAT BRITAIN

COMPILED AND EDITED BY

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1912
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YONKERS, N. Y.

This little volume is dedicated to our revered aunt,

SARAH FRANCES FENTON SANBORN,

to whom we offer it as a simple tribute to her love
and affection for the descendants of her father,

JOSEPH SENECA FENTON.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE movement of races and individuals, seeking a betterment of their condition, social, economical or political, is always a theme which interests the historian. Away back before reliable history begins this uncontrollable motion of peoples is recorded in many ways upon the surface of the earth or under its outer mantle of sand and stone. Who moved and the causes of their motion are mostly hidden.

When we arrive at the so-called reliable historic relation, as recorded by contemporaries or subsequent chronologers, concerning the transfer of nations, tribes or individuals we observe that a whole people transferred themselves, as did the Israelites, tribes moved on for increased means of sustenance, but the individuals for an improved social or religious condition. The idea of a better place where freedom of thought could be found is not a new one, not the product of this or even a few centuries. And strange as it may now seem to us, the would be traveler, leaving his home and the home of his ancestors, sought out and found a home "in some vast wilderness." Settlers, our New England books are wont to call these. Looking through the records of the settlement of our country one will find frequently this announcement: "So and so, the 'Settler,' first heard of at such a place," and from that small beginning and notice the family tree has grown, bearing much fruit. So it is recorded of the New England Foote, Bigelow, Bowman, and others. They seemed to spring up from the soil of their own farms. It looks as if they willed it that no one might thereafter know whence they came. We cannot say of our country that it was opened up and settled by the movement of a nation or a tribe. Our people came in as individuals, often in small companies, and settled themselves complacently on the lands of the Indian. The individual had planned and carried out his hegira. This, too, when he came as a colonist to lands purchased or stolen and owned by the promoter or landlord.

New England was not a penal colony. It was settled by men of strong individuality who mostly came at a mature age, and were accompanied often by wife and children. The weak-

lings of the new settlements were soon weeded out and often the strongest failed to bear the test. It is of the strong will and sturdy arm we are about to write in this, our little family book, in offering which to the Fentons the author deems it his duty to show first how and why it was written.

In a modest monograph entitled "William and Anne Fenton" the writer endeavored to show to the American family Fenton how one of these strong men spoken of before appeared upon the favoring shores of the American Colonies. The same mystery as to his beginnings was found as in the Bigelow, Foote, and other families. We found William and Anne "settled" on their farm. Who they were, whence they came, was not made very clear. The later history of the descendants of this couple was necessarily omitted. The purpose of this volume is to amend and elongate the record. It has been deemed advisable, after lengthy correspondence with the family, to extend our genealogical research across the Atlantic, and also bring down the family record to the latest possible period. The task has proved fruitful in its details, and the little sapling which was transplanted from foreign shores has grown into a tree of magnificent proportions, symmetrical, beautiful. The author has worked both ends of the family history and offers what he supposes will be accepted as a reasonably complete record, genealogically considered. This record reaches now from the middle of the seventeenth century to the latest obtainable information.

It is but right and fair to note first here that there remains much important family history still unearthed in the old country across the sea, and the hope and expectation is here expressed, that, some day, his clues and suggestions herein offered, may be taken up in person by some younger and well-equipped member of the family, now so large and so important a factor in life's history, and the thread followed back into the less well defined times and regions until connection is made with the great and very powerful race of Fentons of the middle ages. The little accomplished showed in its unearthing how much lies buried but reachable in the English and Irish official records. True, it will take time, energy, skill, and no small complement of money. No doubt this little book will some day be replaced by a genealogy reaching beyond the time of William the Conqueror. Not being of Fenton blood the author now proposes to relate in detail the

reasons why the writing of the family genealogy was undertaken by him. With his own family record reaching far back in England he failed to understand why no story of the family into which he married seemed to be in existence. The furthest date told him was less than a century remote from the date of its recital. Mrs. Benjamin Rockwell, formerly Lavinia Bigelow Fenton, his mother-in-law, upon being questioned fully half a century ago as to her progenitors, could only answer as to her father, who was born in Massachusetts in the last days of the eighteenth century. Of his life prior to his marriage, in the early days of the nineteenth century, she knew nothing. She could recall no incidents as to the family save those connected with her every-day life at Norwich and Palmyra, New York State. Repeated inquiries among the members of the family brought no new items. A final appeal to the head of the family, a very few years ago, furnished no other data. These surprising answers only whetted the genealogical appetite of the writer. For his Fenton-born wife's sake, if for no other, he determined to find out for himself and wife who these mysterious Fentons were. It so happened, however, that Governor William Matthew Fenton, about the time of his return from the War of the Rebellion, was smitten with the same desire as to family pedigree. And he addressed a letter to one Horace Fenton, then also residing in Michigan, making inquiries as to the family history. This gentleman, it proved, was of the blood and knew some important matters connected with the past.

Mr. Horace Fenton wrote that when a small child he lived at Rutland, Vermont, and that he remembered on one occasion he attended, at a cemetery near Rutland village, the burial of Colonel Fenton's (step) grandmother. This furnished, at least, a lead, and was eagerly seized upon by the writer.

A letter will be found in the Appendix, written by the Superintendent of the Cemetery to Mr. J. Brush Fenton, in answer to inquiries made by him based upon the letter of Mr. Horace Fenton.

This information was considered as a most valuable index, and it may be said that this little book was literally written from the suggestions found upon a tombstone in the cemetery at Rutland, Vermont. Just as soon as opportunity served the writer took the trip to Rutland, Vermont, where he arrived,

a perfect stranger in a strange village. At the hotel at which he put up he found a county directory. The name of an Irish servantmaid in town, and Charles J. Fenton, Town Clerk of Pittsford, a few miles north of Rutland, were all of that name. Later this Mr. Fenton proved to be a cousin of the blood and a considerable help in time of need.

A visit to the keeper of the cemetery, with whom Mr. Sanborn had had some correspondence, pointed out the cemetery—an abandoned churchyard on the outskirts of the village.

At the graveyard the designated stones were found, but they read "Finton," and that was not Welsh by a long sight.

Passing from the churchyard to the Probate Office, much information was gained as to the Fintons—particularly the Matthew, who, with two wives, laid in the burying ground.

Going to the Clerk's Office and the office of the Recorder of Conveyances many papers were recorded by lots of "Fintons." After scanning many deeds and other papers my eyes lighted upon the name of *Joseph S. Fenton*, in connection with the estate of Matthew Finton, and it soon developed that Matthew "Finton" was father to Joseph S. "Fenton." This Joseph S. Fenton then lived at Norwich, N. Y., where the family said they formerly lived. So I had made one step.

But *who* was Matthew Finton, and *where* did he come from? Recourse was had to the New York libraries. A memorandum, in Mrs. Rockwell's note-book, informed me that Joseph S. Fenton was born in Worthington, Massachusetts. Letters to clergyman and town clerk afforded only negative answers. The record was there, however.

By good fortune a book was found in the Lenox Library, entitled, "A History of Worthington," by General Rice—.

Among the noted residents of old time was a "Mr. Matthew Finton." Also a Bigelow family. The tombstone of one of Matthew Finton's wives read, "Lavinia Bigelow," the name of Mrs. Rockwell. So here I had Mr. Finton and wife. But who was he? It suggested itself to me that the county records might show his name.

Therefore, to the county town, Northampton, Mass., a trip was made. No record. But a memorandum on the books said that other records had been removed to Springfield, so to that city a journey was made.

Matthew's name *was* there, sure enough, but no clew to *who* he was as yet. But the quest did not end here. Certain

mention of places in the Springfield records suggested Worcester County, Massachusetts, so a trip to the City of Worcester was taken.

Before going to the Recorder's Office it suggested itself to the writer that the Probate Court of Worcester might prove as valuable to the skilled searcher as that Court had proven in Rutland County, Vermont.

In the records of the Worcester Probate Court was found the key which opened the casket of desired information.

Here to my amazed view was unfolded so much of the Fenton family history that what followed was easier to be learned.

The Last Will and Testament of Samuel Finton of Rutland, Massachusetts.

The information now obtained from this Will worked forward and backward. Samuel spoke of his "honored father," William Finton, and gave the names of his wife and five children, four boys and one girl. The Will was made upon his death bed and the last and youngest child was named Matthew.

Here, indeed, was a rich find, for the little Matthew was the "Mr. Matthew Finton" of Worthington and the father of Joseph S. Fenton. The train was taken at once for Rutland, Massachusetts, twelve miles to the northwest of Worcester. Here the find was richer than at other places. The cemetery yielded no names. The Town Clerk's Office did. In the village library Jonas Reed's history of Rutland told a good, long tale.

The Town Clerk had in his safe not only the town records, but the valuable church records, too sacred to be left unprotected. In these various records, printed and manuscript, were mentioned Finton names so far back as seventeen hundred and twenty, and as far forward as was needed to connect the various parties above mentioned with each other. But who this notable William Fenton was, and whence he came to the Massachusetts Bay Colony, were still questions to be solved.

Of course all this inquiry herein related took time, skill, patience, and money, but the results so far justified the outlay of all these important factors.

In all these researches the writer was encouraged by the zeal and kindness of members of the family, among whom

we must include Mr. Charles J. Fenton of Pittsford, Vermont, of the same family branch as Horace Fenton. Desiring information from record offices in Ireland, my brother, Doctor Francis Higginson Atkins, a learned genealogist, during a European trip, went to Dublin and up into County Tyrone, to obtain information for me. He was highly successful and through his researches the author was able to locate the Fenton home in Ireland and carry dates far back of any theretofore obtained.

All through the seven years of search new items have been found and the family duly notified. So much that was new and interesting has been found that it was deemed best, after due consideration with the members of the family, to print a book. Through the courtesy of some of the younger Fentons several charts have been prepared.

If there is any knowledge as to the family missing from this book it is not the fault of the author for he has, year in and year out, importuned the individual members of the family to supply him with facts which he could not know.

The results of a seven years' research are now laid before you.

CHAPTER I.

The Fentons of England.

THE Fentons were transplanted; they were in no wise Irish in their origin, although, at the present time, there are sufficient families of this name claiming to be Irish, and in Ireland itself, to create the impression that all Fentons must have been from or of the Green Isle. The family certainly originated in England and spread to adjoining or even remote parts. The transplanting or emigration was not a spontaneous rising and transfer. Separate and very distinct families at various times got or were taken into Ireland. At the present time each separate family corresponded with in the North of Ireland disclaims relationship with others. In fact it has been very hard to trace out the whereabouts of some so distinct have they held themselves even in Ulster and Donegal from each other. There is almost a chain of these Fenton families disclaiming relationship with each other, stretching from Carrickfergus, on the East Coast, to Sligo on the West. This fact had added much to our labor. Various English counties contributed to the resettlement of Ulster during at least two centuries. Greed for land, belonging to others by rights, the fate of war in the various attempts to subjugate the Irish, much soldier-driftwood being left upon the retiring of the tide.

It must be noted here that all new comers across the narrow channel which divides Scotland from Ireland were dubbed "Scots" and we now know that Englishmen in the main came into the North country and the "Scots in Ulster" hailed largely from the midland counties of England. Notably they came in great numbers from Lincoln.

That there were immense numbers of Scotchmen ferried over the intervening narrow channel is certain. One has only to observe the name of these settlers to prove that, but the real incursion was English. Every calling was represented in this invasion from the haughty soldier to the humble plowman. They came in great waves as the English pushed back or obliterated the owners of the soil. There seems to have been no buying out of the possessions of the land-owners. The

settlers simply took what they wanted. Many, but not all, of these despoilers of the natives, became in a generation or two quite Irish themselves. Some of the Scotch, and many of the English, kept themselves entirely apart from those natives who were mercifully allowed to stay in their own country. Names and language changed as it were. Even the manners and customs of the settlers were changed or modified after a short lapse of time. Local pronunciation led to local spelling of names. Thus the Fentons of the English midland counties became the Fintons of Ulster. In the middle of the seventeenth century we find Fentowne. By the commencement of the eighteenth it was Fenten and Finton. In the old records seen by the author in his researches the name is often found spelled in two and three different ways in the same document. At times the Recorder adds to these an explanatory or suggested Vinton.

It is proper here to note that so far as the historic local records have been scanned the name of Fenton has not been disgraced through the frightful burnings, murders and robberies of the peaceful inhabitants whom they found in possession. There were warrior Fentons, but they did only as troops do in a foreign country. The Fentons appear in English history before the time of William the Conqueror, and we find grants of land by Edward the Confessor to one recorded as "Le Fentonne," in payment for adhesion to his cause.

We are informed by a Fenton author that when William of Normandy came to England he found one Richard Fenton out on a land grabbing expedition and that the aforesaid Richard was very useful to him. But the very earliest dates of the family are as yet in obscurity.

The Domesday Book has in it a record of lands assigned to Baron Ricardus Ffentone in Nottinghamshire.

The name Fenton suggests its derivation at a very early date, when men and families were named from occupations or location. We have John the Smith and William the Bowman, or James the Archer.

We find that the earliest recorded meaning of the word "ton" was an enclosed place, enclosed for protection against sudden attack and thus the enclosed and protected "ton" on the "Fen" most naturally would be applied to a man or family coming thence. It is but fair to say that other designations

are found, but this seems most reasonable. Richard Fenton is surnamed "The man with the strong grip."

From Sir Richard to Sir Gregory or Jeffrey Fenton the line of descent is said to be distinct and reliable.

It is said that Sir Richard obtained rich and fertile domains not alone in Nottinghamshire, but also in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire. We find him duly credited with these large and important possessions noted as early as the year ten hundred and sixty-seven.

Ferrar Fenton, the Orientalist writer and historian of the Fenton family, whom the author met in New York City while Mr. Fenton was there upon business matters, says that in the Fenton genealogy the names that most frequently occur are the Richards, Johns, James and Henrys, but that there are mentioned many Williams in the six hundred years to Queen Elizabeth's time. In the various branches of the Fenton family in New England, but not of our line, one finds a very great number of Scriptural names. This difference is noteworthy, for in the branch of the family under consideration the Johns and Williams predominate. In the direct line from Sir Richard we come to a John Fenton, Member of Parliament from Lincolnshire, but we have only a mention so far of his decease in fifteen hundred and fifty-four.

This particular John had a son John and a son James. James lived in England and John in Wales. This John had a son John who was the father of Sir Geoffrey Fenton. As this excludes our branch it would seem that William Fenton of Rutland, Massachusetts Bay Colony, must have descended either from James of Nottingham or from James the uncle of Sir Geoffrey Fenton.

It remains for the future genealogist of the American family to solve this question, there yet remaining a blank of great size to be filled. It may be found that in some of the great record offices of Great Britain this connecting link may be found and the blanks filled in. Many greater genealogical tasks have been successfully prosecuted by our American genealogists. It will be an interesting work for some energetic well-to-do Fenton. Mr. Ferrar Fenton writes me that, after much research, at considerable expense, at my request he believes that our Ulster Fentons were descended from General James Fenton, whom documents in the English Record Office state to have been one of Queen Elizabeth's officers who com-

manded a division in defeating "O'Neal's Rebellion" in Ulster, where James' brother, Edward, held the chief command. Also that, on retiring from the service, James Fenton returned to his ancestral estate in Staffordshire, England, in the year sixteen hundred and fourteen. His son James died in Sixteen hundred and forty.

The line of descent from Sir Geoffrey is so well settled and known that after personal correspondence with the Ulster Geoffrey Fentons it seems certain, at least to the author, that the Tyrone Fentons here being recorded cannot be descendants of the Viceroy of Ireland. We are informed that the male line was very limited in extent, but from papers submitted it would seem that the stock ran strongly to females.

Much care has been taken by the writer to eliminate all persons and lines which fail to show indisputable evidence of succession to connect with our Ulster Fentons. General James Fenton, with many other officers, was rewarded for his services in the conquest of Ireland, by grants of forfeited land. These grantees, in turn, subdivided the allotted confiscated land and settlers in great numbers were brought over from England. Afterwards we find that there was constant official supervision as to these parcels and an account taken of their doings and the chattels and cattle which they had raised or purchased.

Mr. Hanna, in his great work on the Ulster Scots in Ireland and America, has opened up the records to an amazing and intensely interesting extent. There still exists vast masses of such important data in the English National Archives and in the Probate records, and in these may yet be found, as Mr. Hanna has found, the story of that part of the occupation of Ireland which concerns us. Correspondence with the Stewarts shows me that the Lords Mountjoy records have passed out of their hands. Just where they may be found is yet unsolved, but, as we shall see later, the Fentons of Urney were their tenants and their records, if found, would carry the Fentons further back by generations. It may not be amiss to record in this chapter the names of a Fenton or two who may hereafter be accepted with pride as a relative, not an ancestor.

Besides the "Man with the strong grip" there have been several of his descendants who have become noted in history, poetry and art. Lippincott's Biographical Dictionary gives,

"Edward Fenton, who was an English navigator, born about 1550. In 1577 he accompanied Sir Martin Frobisher on a voyage to the North Seas. After making two voyages in the unsuccessful attempt to discover a passage by the Northwest to the South Sea he sailed toward the Strait of Magellan. He fell in with three Spanish ships, sinking one. He then returned to England and obtained the command of a vessel in the armament sent against the famous Armada, in 1588, on which occasion he distinguished himself by his skill and bravery.

"Elijah Fenton was a distinguished English poet who was born in Staffordshire, 1683. He graduated at Oxford about 1704. He assisted Pope in the translation of the 'Odyssey,' his portion being several books. Among his works was the tragedy of 'Marianne' (1723); 'Life of Milton' (1727) and several poems." A copy of these poems are now in the possession of our Fenton family.

"Sir Geoffrey Fenton, an able statesman and translator, a brother of Edward, noticed above. He produced 'Golden Epistles from Guevara and other Authors' in 1575 and an English version of Geniciardinis' 'History of Italian Wars.' He was for many years Secretary of State to Ireland in the reign of Queen Elizabeth and James I."

The Encyclopaedia Britannica adds that Fenton was a bigoted Protestant, longing to use the rack against "the diabollicall secte of Rome" and even advocating the assassination of the queen's most dangerous subjects. Fenton was Knighted in 1589.

"Lavinia Fenton was an English actress. Her first appearance was at the Haymarket in 1726. Her beauty and her success as an actress made her the toast of the beaux. As Polly Peachum in "Beggars' Opera" Miss Fenton made her greatest success. She was the most talked of person in London. She ran away with her lover, the Duke of Bolton, who, after the death of his wife, married her. One of Hogarth's pictures shows Miss Fenton, in one of the scenes, with the Duke of Bolton in a box. To conclude, there is a little town called Fenton in Staffordshire, England. The town of the fens is now chiefly renowned for its potteries.

CHAPTER II.

The Settlement of Ulster.

ULSTER, in the North of Ireland, has contributed more than its share to history. The story of this little province of Ireland has been written in blood. What seems to-day tumult there is but a ripple as to the mountain wave. There are but few and limited periods where Ulster was at peace. Armies have swept to and fro over the devastated fields and towns and murder and rapine have done what fire and the sword left to be accomplished. Whole populations have come and gone in times past, and, even of late, the change of peoples has been great. Families were lost to sight and history in the floods of hate and violence which swept time and again over unhappy, turbulent Ulster. Some nine counties are within the borders of the province. Antrim, Tyrone and Armagh are familiar names in the Fenton annals.

This province was one of the early Kingdoms of Ireland, the last king having closed his reign in 1200. In later history we have the seige of Londonderry and the Battle of Boyne. These items are given here merely to incite further research by the reader of this little volume. It is a rich and fertile historical field. In the years 1608-9 there was a division of so-called escheated lands in Ulster. The partition is said to have been for the "Scotch," every settler or invader being thus dubbed.

At the beginning of that century, it is recorded in many historical works on Ireland, that vast swarms of would-be land-grabbers crossed the narrow channel from Galloway and other places on the coast. Long lists of such land pirates of the years 1603-10 were published in official papers, and this human flood spread over the counties of Antrim, Armagh and Tyrone. Tyrone was devastated in the uprising of 1641. But nevertheless we find that there were in 1660 some sixty-seven Presbyterian clergymen in Ulster, so vast had been the rush into the province.

A royal commission was established at Carrickfergus, on the east coast, for the express purpose of a proper distribution of these colonists.

On May 23rd, 1653, we find in one of their orders the name of a James Fenton, who, with other "notable Scots," was assigned to the Glenarm Barony, adjoining County Tyrone on the east. This is the first Fenton settler noted by Mr. Hanna in his book. Among others we find the names of James Shaw and John Shaw, as some of those who were assigned land with Fenton. This is a notable lead, for, as we shall see later, the Fentons and Shaws are found near each other in Massachusetts and were allied in marriage.

In the year 1653 all popular "Scots" were ordered to leave Antrim forthwith. It may be noted here that there was trouble brewing at Carrickfergus, where we first find James Fenton. Later other Fentons appear. These official orders and lists of tenants and distributees seem to contain no distinctly Welsh names. The years between 1641 and 1652 were years of upheaval, devastation and bloodshed, and it was at the end of this period that we find, as settlers, the above-named. For awhile the country seemed quiet and English population spread from east to west coast. In 1689 James the Second landed in Ireland and we have the notable siege of Londonderry and the Battle of Boyne. It is of record that the end of the seventeenth century saw the last of the "Scots" as immigrants in Ulster. With the opening of the eighteenth century the tide turned and the human tide flowed outward. During all these years of turmoil the Fentons seem to have remained on the Ulster soil, and prospered. The Tyrone Fentons, at the close of the seventeenth century, must have held large parcels of land as tenants of the Lords Mountjoy.

Now let us study geography for awhile, in order that we may know better the country into which the midland Fentons strayed; their promised land.

On the east coast we have the port of Carrickfergus on the channel, a most convenient resting place. Westerly we find Antrim, and, west of that, Tyrone. From Tyrone to Boston came William and Anne Fenton. As we pass through Tyrone we go by the Manor of Newtown Stewart, the property of Charles Blount, Lord Mountjoy. Going still further west, passing Ardstraw, we come to the very north-west corner of County Tyrone, where a narrow stream separates it from County Donegal. A little town lies partly in one and partly in the other county. The tiny brook divides the

town between the counties. It is just the eastern portion, in Tyrone, with which we are interested—namely, Urney, in Tyrone, fifteen miles south of Londonderry, near Strabane and Lifford—mark well these names. It was to these regions that the so-called “Scots” of Carrickfergus were removed after some fifteen hundred of them had participated in the slaughter of the Irish. The Irish Rebellion was in 1641, the removal in 1653. The non-loyal Presbyterians, of Antrim, were also transplanted in 1653.

But, as we have seen above, the Presbyterian Church in Ulster within a few years became a flourishing body.

It is recorded, at Dublin, that the Fenton and other families then mentioned were among the principal land owners in Ireland at the close of the seventeenth century. In the distribution of the year 1610 King James made a large gift of land in Tyrone to his favorite Courtier, Mountjoy, some 9,500 acres, and, in Strabane, just north, he made over to Mountjoy 13,500 acres. These grants are to be noted, for, in our next chapter, we will have the Fentons in and on both parcels. While we have no Welsh names among the settlers, or land grabbers of Ulster, yet it may be that at some time one of the ancestors of our Fentons may have temporarily resided there and perhaps held property there. But, in seven years patient search, the author of this little genealogical work has only been able to trace the Fentons of America to the great land owner of Tyrone, Strabane and Lippert.

It remains for some other searcher with abundant time and money to spare, as we have said before, to trace the family further back. Should it lead to and through Wales it must inevitably be brought back again to the birth place of the settlers, the midland counties of Old England.

It would be well to note that, for hundreds of years—perhaps a thousand years—the “Fleur de lis” has been the family emblem, subject, however, to various other added heraldic designs.

The following is a part of Ambassador Reid’s Edinburgh address, October, 1911, concerning “The Scots in America and The Ulster Scot:”

No man may presume to depreciate either the Puritan or the Cavalier. But, when they are praised—as they must be forever while heroism and great achievements are honored among the generations of men—the praise should be for what

they did, rather than for what they conspicuously did not do. The Puritan did not seek a new world to establish liberty of conscience—far from it. He only sought a world where he could impose his own conscience on everybody else. The Cavalier did not seek a new world where he could establish universal freedom. He only sought freedom to have his own way. Even for the early Scottish emigrants sent out to him he had no use save as bond-servants. Later on he found them also useful as Presidents.

Neither the Puritan nor the Cavalier went to America in resistance to tyranny. The Puritans who sought to resist tyranny stayed in England, in the army with Fairfax, while those who felt otherwise escaped to the Colonies. The Cavaliers in the main left England for America when the Commonwealth army had defeated them.

The Cavalier settlements began in 1607; those of the Puritans in 1620. Puritans and Cavaliers thus had possession of the field for the first half of the seventeenth century.

The Scottish immigration began in the second half. It never had the advantage of concentration in one colony, like the Puritans in Massachusetts or the Cavaliers in Virginia, or even like the settlements of the Quakers and Germans in Pennsylvania. It began, too, under circumstances that made the misfortunes of the Puritans and the Cavaliers seem almost enviable. The first notable Scottish arrivals were those shipped on the boat *John and Sara* in 1652. They were prisoners of war, captured by Cromwell after the Battle of Dunbar, and sentenced to be transported to the American plantations and sold into service. Similar shipments of prisoners of war, and then cargoes of convicted criminals followed. After a time there sprang up also a system by which poor men secured transportation to the new and cheap lands of the colonies by selling in advance their services for a term of years. And yet, so rapidly did eager followers tread the steps of the involuntary immigrants that only a third of a century after the first shipment of Scottish prisoners to be sold into service was landed at Boston, a Scottish missionary, the Rev. James Blair, of Edinburgh, was founding one of the oldest of American colleges, William and Mary, in Virginia. In the century then almost dawning that Scottish educational foundation in the South was to graduate many notable students—among them one certainly who has given

the whole world cause to remember him and the stock that trained him—Thomas Jefferson, author of the Declaration of Independence.

Such, briefly stated, was the modest debut of the new and greater force in American development—Scottish prisoners of war, transported and sold into service; convicted Scottish criminals, transported and sold to get them out of the service to get a chance in the New World; pious young men way; poor but aspiring Scottish lads, selling themselves into from Scottish universities, trying to found like educational centers in the wilderness, for the glory of God. As we have seen, they were nearly half a century behind the Cavaliers in making their start, nearly a third of a century behind the Pilgrims. But the tortoise did not lose the race.

During the next sixty-seven years, till the accession of George III, the Scottish immigration slowly increased.

Thus, shortly after the arrival of the John and Sara prisoners, other Scottish fighting Presbyterians were brought out in the same way and became founders of colonies on the Elizabeth River in Virginia, and in Maryland. Many inhabitants of Northwestern Scotland, especially the Clans of Macdonald and Macleod, were induced to emigrate by persons who had obtained larger concessions in the Carolinas; and their reports drew after them whole neighborhoods from the Isles of Raasay and Skye. Bladensburg in Maryland, the Cape Fear region and Wilmington in North Carolina, the York and Rappahannock Rivers in Virginia, and the vicinity of Albemarle Sound were all places at which such colonies were established. And, in fact, if these Scottish and Presbyterian colonists must be called Irish because they had been one or two generations in the North of Ireland, then the Pilgrim Fathers, who had been one generation or more in Holland, must by the same reasoning be called Dutch, or, at the very least, English-Dutch.

In this new stream of Scottish settlers in the colonies the blood is the same and the religious faith is the same, but they had already been immigrants from Scotland to the North of Ireland for one, two or three generations; some sent by James I, others by Cromwell, others attracted later by cheap farms and fancied opportunities for trade. After a time they began to suffer from unfriendly English legislation, from Episcopal persecution and from the cruel, if not treacherous,

hostility of the expelled British monarch, James II, which, among other things, forced them to their long and heroic defence of Londonderry. These experiences turned their eyes after the Scotsmen already prospering in the American Colonies, and presently a great movement began among the Ulster Scots. In 1718 five small ships arrived at Boston with about 750 of them, who ultimately settled, some at Londonderry, N. H., in a Presbyterian congregation under the care of the Rev. James MacGregor; some in Boston, forming the Federal Street Presbyterian Church; some at Worcester, Mass., and near Portland, Me. A year later some hundreds more of Ulster Scottish families were brought to the Kennebec River in Maine by Captain Robert Temple, an ancestor of the well known Robert C. Winthrop, of Massachusetts. These and succeeding parties from Ulster soon made a considerable element in the Northern New England population. On the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the founding of this American Londonderry, Governor Charles H. Bell, of Exeter, N. H., called attention to the prodigious increase in that settlement of Ulster Scots, which he found then estimated by qualified persons to fall little short of fifty thousand.

"They brought to America no submissive love for England; and their experience and their religion alike bade them meet oppression with prompt resistance. We shall find the first voice publicly raised in America to dissolve all connection with Great Britain come not from the Puritans of New England, or the Dutch of New York, or the planters of Virginia, but from Scottish-Irish Presbyterians."

CHAPTER III.

The Fentons of Urney.

AWAY on the western border of County Tyrone, where it joins County Donegal, that most picturesque section of Northwest Ulster, we have found the little town from which it would seem our Massachusetts Fentons came, to settle in America. William Fenton, the settler, evidently found and probably married the Anne Fenton, at Ardstraw, whom he brought to the colony. We have no record of her maiden name. Ardstraw having been settled and re-settled so constantly that no church records are now available, although they have been earnestly sought by the author through correspondence with the church authorities there.

In the middle and latter part of the seventeenth century we find the English Fentons permanently located at Urney. On the Irish map of to-day it seems to be called Urney Park. Here the Fentons must have lived in some considerable state as wealthy tenants of Lord Mountjoy and by reason of their valuable landed properties were undoubtedly looked upon as a family of great consequence. The church records and graveyard at Urney prove very conclusively the foregoing statement.

The Fenton line, it is seen, in the half century of turmoil back of 1660, has become hazy and the connection slight between the midland families and the Tyrone family Fenton. It is very probable that records are yet in existence which may some day furnish an unbroken line of descent.

Much correspondence with well known and very intelligent residents of Urney Town and Park fails to obtain from them any information as to the Fentons prior to the time of the earliest discovered tombstone, bearing date 1660.

We know that the old family mansion stood in the Park, but the house now there is reported to have been built by a much later owner, probably by Manasseh Fenton, whose gifts to the local church are still extant and held in great reverence.

Urney Park long since passed into strange hands and but little information has been gathered from the present

MANASSEH FENTOWN.

Ob: Urney, 1670, July 30th.

JOHN FENTON.

Ob: Urney, 1722.

WILLIAM FENTON-ANNE FENTEN.

First heard of at Roxbury,
Mass, abt. 1722.
b. in Ireland, farmer, Rut-
land, Mass.

No record.

AGNES.		WILLIAM, JR.		SAMUEL.		JOHN.	
b. in Ireland. d.	m. Adam Galt of Wor- cester, Mass. June 30th, 1744.	b. 1716 in Ireland. d. Nov. 14th, 1804. Wm., Jr., and Anna buried at Wales, Mass.	m. Anna Shaw of Brimfield, Mass., Nov. 28th, 1748. b. 1725. d. Feby. 20th, 1812.		b. d. Abt. Jan. 29th, 1754, at Rutland, Mass.	m. Jane Barr of Hardwick, Mass., Oct. 10th, 1745. b. d. Jane Flnton, widow, m. Geo. Nye, Apl. 26th, 1764.	No record.
JOHN.		TIMOTHY.		JOHN.		MATTHEW.	
				JOSEPH.		AND LAVINIA.	
				ANNE.		LORING AND MATTHEW.	
				b. 1746. d. Mch. 29th, 1780. in Revy. Army.		m. Sarah Steel of New Brain- tree, Mass., Feby. 23rd. 1769.	
				b. 1748.		m. Adam Whills at New Braintree, Mass., Dec. 14th, 1785.	
				b. 1750.		m. 1st, Joanna Torrence. d. Feby. 22nd, 1818, at Rut- land, Vermont.	
				b. 1751.		m. Martha Croset at Pelham, Mass, Dec. 7th, 1775.	
				b. 1753 at Rutland, Mass.		d. Jan. 24th, 1813, at Rut- land, Vt.	
				b. 1761.		m. 1st about 1780, Lavinia Bigelow, at Worthing- ton, Mass. b. at Hartford, 1758. d. Mch. 13th, 1787, at Rut- land, Vt. m. 2nd, Hannah Woods, w., Dec. 3rd, 1792. b. 1761. d. Jan, 24th, 1813.	
				By First Wife.		By Second Wife.	
				BIGELOW C.		AND LAVINIA.	
				No record.		No record except that she m. Revd. Josiah Hopkins.	
				b. Jan. 21, 1781, at Worth- ington, Mass. d. Nov. 14th, 1851, at Flint, Mich.		m. Sarah Thompson Brush at Ferrisburg, Vt., Feby. 16th, 1808. b. Feby. 8th, 1783. d. Oct. 25th, 1844, at Fenton- ville, Mich.	
WILLIAM MATTHEW.		LAVINIA BIGELOW.		JULIA ISABELLA.		JOSEPH BRUSH.	
Chart 2.		Chart 2.		Chart 3.		CATHARINE.	
				b. Sept. 9th, 1815, at Nor- wich, N. Y. d. Feby. 28th, 1848, at Cin- cinnati, O. Unmarried.		b. Sept. 19th, 1817, at Nor- wich, N. Y. d. Mch. 1st, 1836, at Pal- myra, N. Y. Unmarried.	
				b. Sept. 1st, 1819, at Nor- wich, N. Y. d. Mch. 21st, 1838, at Pal- myra, N. Y. Unmarried.		b. Feby. 18th, 1821, at Nor- wich, N. Y. d. May 22nd, 1821, at Nor- wich, N. Y.	
				Chart 4.		Chart 4.	
						JANE.	
						Chart 4.	

owners. The church furnishes no record save the tombstones and the gifts of the various Fentons. The Urney people have been courteous and even painstaking in their efforts to help us, but burned buildings, devastated fields and church ashes are poor recording offices in County Tyrone. John Fenton, father of William Fenton, was the lessee of farms in several townships and was probably one of the noted men of his time. His sons, James, John and William, lived with him, and, probably, worked his various farms. James Fenton, the oldest son, received his patrimony and went to America, but no trace of him here has been found. William, the second son, having settled with his father, joined the vast army of emigrants and took up a temporary residence at Roxbury, now Boston, Mass. John, the youngest son, remained with his father and became sole heir to the landed property.

In the early days of the seventeenth century the Presbyterian Church of "Urney and Zion," was probably the church of the town. In the eighteenth century the Angelican Church seems to have taken its place. The Rector of Urney has been unable to identify any grave in the churchyard as that of John Fenton, who died in 1722, and whose Will follows.

William Fenton, of Massachusetts, was a strong Presbyterian, and we are quite sure that his father died in that faith shortly after William and Anne Fenton sailed for America with the Ardstraw congregation. John Fenton, Jr., succeeded to the Urney property, and his son, Manasseh Fenton, followed him, Manasseh's gifts to the Urney church being noteworthy. He was in turn succeeded by his son Benjamin, who died at Urney in 1804.

Diocese of Derry. Will. 1722.

In the name of God, Amen. I John Fenton of Urny in y^e County of Tyrone, Farmer, being in health of body and bless^d be God of sound memory and calling to mind the finality of y^s mortal life doe make and ordain y^s my last will and testam^t in manner and form following, revoking all other wills verbal or otherwise since y^e beginning of y^e day and allowing y^s to stand for my last and only testam^t. As for my soul I bequeath it to God, my Creator in sure and certain hope of y^e eternal life promised to all that believe in him. For my body I order it to be decently bury^d in y^e ch-yard of Urny at y^e expense of my heir John Fenton, my youngest son. As

for my eldest son James Fenton (now in America) he has gott from me in portion with y^e sum of one hundred lbs. stg. So paid to purchase a house in Strabane. I pd 8 liber if Enings for him. Item I gave him 72 liber and pd Lieu^t W^m Calhenn for him y^e sum of £100 and W^m Salchegg for him tenn liber beside several other gifts of value. I therefore order at my decease y^t y^e sum of one shilling ster be pd to him by my John Fenton if demanded and y^t to be in full of all patrimony to be claimed by him and any * * * * from him and I doe hereby exclude him, his heirs and assigns from having any right, title and interest in my lands, goods and chattels for ever.

Item. My son W^m I have given him an hundred and forty four pounds, six shillings in consideration of all claim and demand or pretention to patrimony and from him I have received his receipt and therefore exclude him, his heirs exors and assigns for ever from any title and interest in any goods, lands and chattels to me appertaining.

As for my son John Fenton I constitute and appoint him to be my sole heir of all my lands, which are four towns Lyslap, Lurganurny, Glencony, Govt Branachan with all y^e appurtenances being and lying in the manner of Newtown Stenard and this to be held and occupied and enjoyd by him and heirs male lawfully begotten of his body paying thereout yearly the chief rent due to y^e Rt Honble Lord M^t Joy and assigns with y^s provisoe that neither he nor they shall at any time hereafter sell, mortgage, exchange and alienate any part and parcel (whole line missing) of Strabane (half line missing) —my last will that exors afsd publish the within tenn days after my decease

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the 8th day of August 1721

JOHN FENTON

Witnesses

William Homes

John Homes

William Homes

Proved Oct. 23^d 1722 by W^m

Holmes and John Love, ex-

ecutors named in said will.

In the churchyard at Urney there is a tombstone, lately uncovered, at the writer's request, which tells of the burial, at that spot, of Manasseh Fentowne. The date on that stone is 1670. The inscription, written below, what appears to

be a Phoenix, is "Per ardua assurgo;" under that is the motto, "Memento Mori," with cross-bones and skull added thereto. This stone was buried under half a foot of earth. We note the odd spelling of Fenton. The name of Manasseh prior to John, and, subsequent to another John, his son, suggests a family line at Urney, reaching far back into the seventeenth century. It might be suggested, for later inquiry and search, that the names of James, 1653, Manasseh, 1670, John Senior and Junior, 1680 to 1722, and a later Manasseh, all located upon the same spot, form links in a chain leading from England, in the seventeenth century, to Massachusetts in the eighteenth century.

The tombstone of Fentowne, 1660, was also exhumed, at the writer's request, he having been informed that several such stones, as above, were extant, but so worn and covered with growth of some kind as to be hardly decipherable. Who knows but some future Fenton will dig from that ancient graveyard the connecting link in the Fenton chain?

CHAPTER IV.

The Fenton Exodus.

WE have seen, in the last chapter, that the last half of the seventeenth century was practically one vast political upheaval. The conditions were somewhat bettered in the closing days of the century and the Urney Fentons were still occupying their property in comparative peace when the subject of this chapter was brought into existence.

But meanwhile religious troubles had broken out anew, and the closing years of the old century and the early years of the new or eighteenth century, were sad and very dreary days for Ireland, after all the country had suffered. Added to these causes was the fact, that, in the early years of the new century, many of the so-called Irish leases expired and the landlords doubled the rents, whereby agriculture became distressingly poor and the tenants showed great signs of unrest. In 1718 several hundred Scotch-Irish in Ulster, lawyers, merchants and farmers wrote to Governor Shaw, of "New England," asking if they would be favorably received if they came to America. That petition is now in possession of the New Hampshire Historical Society. Inspection fails to reveal the name of William Fenton thereon. Let us quote from historical writings as to the period up to the last date.

Mr. Lawless declares, after citing specifically the violence and crimes, committed by both sides in their fratricidal strife, that the mass of people were lying crushed and exhausted by their own violence. Mr. Fronde says that the Presbyterian wrongs were more cruel than those of any other section of the Irish nation, at this particular time. Also that, in the eyes of the Established Church, Dissenters still remained the enemy, which Ireland had most cause to fear, and that the Irish Protestant gentry were suspected of desiring to exterminate the Catholics. Mr. Maxwell says that, when the restoration of peace had defeated the hopes of the Presbyterians, they resolved to disarm the Roman Catholics and that they proceeded in large bodies to disarm them, pro-

voking hostilities. In their domiciliary visits, under the pretext of seeking arms, the Presbyterians destroyed the property of the Catholics and abused them inhumanly.

Mr. Witherow, in his history of Presbyterians in Ireland, gives numerous incidents of oppression of the pastors and members of the Presbyterian Church, just prior to the end of the seventeenth century, and says, that, towards the end of the year 1711, the Presbyterians of Ulster were suffering under weighty grievances, imposed by the State; that the years 1717 and 1718 were notable for emigration and that hundreds of Protestant families left the North of Ireland for the North American colonies.

Mr. Fronde says that in 1719 great religious discord existed in Ireland. Presbyterians who had saved Ireland, and who formed two-thirds of the Protestant population of Ulster, obtained permission to open chapels of their own, but were incapacitated from holding public office; their marriages were invalid and other disabilities pertained. And now, he adds, re-commenced the Protestant emigration, which robbed Ireland of the bravest defenders of English interests, and peopled the American sea-board with fresh flights of pilgrims. Twenty thousand left Ulster; men of spirit and energy refused to remain in the country. Shiploads of families poured themselves out from Belfast and Londonderry.

It is stated that on August 4th, 1718, five small vessels with fifty families, in all seven hundred and fifty people, arrived at Boston, Massachusetts, from Ulster. We find two hundred of these settled at Worcester, Massachusetts. A large contingent founded Londonderry, New Hampshire. It is remarked that some of these refugees were well off, others very poor. It is stated that the authorities ruling Ireland were startled at the dimensions which this exodus assumed.

The cause of this exodus was plainly the "Presbyterian Disabilities Act."

A government committee reported that the hardships under which their people labored on that account were so grievous that they were transporting themselves to America for the sake of liberty and ease, which they were denied in their native country. Mr. Fronde says that they were "torn up by the roots and flung out." Mr. Jervis says that the manufactures of the Presbyterians and others were prohibited

to be imported into England or its colonies, and that the inhabitants sank into a state of wretched misery.

Mr. Godkin adds to this that the Ulster landlords uprooted their tenants and banished them, from 1700 on, substituting grazing for tillage and cattle for an orderly peasantry.

William Fenton was a farmer and a Presbyterian; all of the above causes affected him.

Mr. Maxwell, in his preface to his great work on "The Irish Rebellion of 1798" says, and it can be safely applied to the state of Ireland a century earlier, "Protestant remonstrances have been accompanied by Roman Catholic complaint," and he adds, "Every man in Ireland is a partisan," and the observation is correct, he says. To coerce, and not conciliate, was the evil policy of the personages in power—bad statesmanship did for America what her own exertions could not have achieved. These remarks apply exactly to the state of affairs in Ireland, alluded to by the above historians, although they are now applied to an Ireland of a hundred or more years back. In the work, "Cambridge Modern History," is a chapter on Ireland from 1660 to 1700.

Some of the reasons for Irish discontent are specifically stated. Parliament had agreed to a bill, and it had received royal assent, forbidding the importation of "great cattle, sheep and swine, as well as of all beef, pork and bacon, on the ground that such imports were destructive of the prosperity of the country (England) and were a 'common nuisance.'" Now note the effect upon Ireland and its farm products: Whereas in 1665, 57,545 oxen and 99,564 sheep were exported from Ireland in 1669 the number had fallen to 1,454 oxen and 1,120 sheep. By closing the English market against Irish livestock, the Act of Parliament practically killed the existing Irish industry. Then came the civil war as we may call it. War, desolation and poverty. Despite the devastation of nearly forty years the year 1698 found Ireland possessed of a flourishing woolen, linen and provision trade. Then came another blow, aimed at these industries, and Parliament passed an Act expressly forbidding, under the severest penalties, the exportation from Ireland of all wool and woolen goods, except to England, and even this only under duties which were intended to be absolutely prohibitive.

In the foregoing pages there have been summarized,

only too briefly, the potent causes of the Irish emigration to the then but lightly settled shores of America. Of all the various classes into which Ireland was divided, the farmers suffered the greatest penalty of invasion, rebellion and religious intolerance. Other classes of men could move away; could with the greatest facility at least get their persons out of danger. For over a hundred and fifty years these causes had intermittently raged.

Little wonder that James and William Fenton, sons of John Fenton of Urney, saw no future for themselves in the early days of the eighteenth century. The five farms of the father probably, at the close of the seventeenth century, failed to promise more than a bare existence and the family agreement seems to have been that it should be broken up. James and William were settled with pecuniarily. John was to stay and own and farm the leaseholds, under the Mountjoy protection. Would that we could attend the family councils which settled upon this plan; how much of family history would be laid bare to us.

CHAPTER V.

William and Ann Fenton.

BY the terms of the Will of John Fenton little seems to have come to William Fenton but, nevertheless, when he arrived at Boston he seemed to be well supplied with ready money.

As to his prior church record it is to be noted that his father's minister was William Holmes, at Urney, who witnessed John Fenton's Will and proved it later. The adjoining parish was presided over by the Rev. Samuel Halyday. William Fenton and wife evidently joined the Ardstraw people when they set out for America. Many of these people brought letters from Mr. Halyday, but, upon later research, it would appear that Mr. Fenton brought no letters from any church. Rev. William Holmes was also pastor of the Strabane Church, the town to the north of Urney, where John Fenton also had a farm. From this record, only lately obtained, it would appear that William Fenton's father was a member of the Presbyterian Church at Urney. In the latter part of the eighteenth century Urney Park passed from the Fentons, by sale, to Sir James Galbraith and is at present writing owned by Mr. James Perry, with whose family correspondence has lately been had.

The exact date of William Fenton's departure from the homestead is not known. He had been married to Ann some years, and their son, William, Junior, was born at their Irish home in 1716. The other children, probably, were born in America.

Exiled Irishman's Farewell.

Farewell, and forever, my loved Isle of sorrow,
Thy green vales and mountains delight me no more.
My bark's on the wave, and the noon of tomorrow
Will see the poor exile far from the shore.
Time may roll over me its circles uncheering,
Columbia's proud forests around me shall wave,
But the exile shall never forget the lov'd Erin,
'Till, unmourned, he sleeps in a far foreign grave.

The Scotch-Irish Pilgrims of 1718.

BY AN UNKNOWN POET.

SELECTED BY MRS. PROFESSOR SANBORN.

In the summer one thousand seven hundred eighteen,
Our pious ancestors embarked on the ocean.
Oppressed by the minions and dupes of their King,
They quitted sweet Erin with painful emotion.

On the wide-swelling wave,
All dangers they brave,
While fleeing from shackles prepared for the slave,
In quest of a region where genius might roam
And yield an asylum as dear as their home.

Undaunted they press'd to their prime destination,
Allured by the prospect that freedom displayed,
And such was the warmth of their fond expectation
That dangers unnumbered ne'er made them afraid.

How serene was the day
And how cheerful and gay
Were those pilgrims when anchored in Old Caseo Bay:
There prayers like incense ascended on high
And fond acclamations then burst to the sky!!!

Mr. Fenton on arrival in America settled for a while at Roxbury, now a part of Greater Boston. The length of his stay is unknown, owing to the fact that as yet there is no record of the family arriving at Boston. It is probable that relations of the same name had come to America, for, at Charlestown and Dorchester, there had been Fentons for a long time, neither of these towns being then remote from old Boston.

Having taken time to look around Mr. Fenton evidently decided to join his fellow Irish settlers at Rutland, or Worcester, places quite near each other and having already some English speaking inhabitants. Having chosen the new town of Rutland he purchased, on March 29th, 1722, from Mr. James Pitts of Boston, a parcel of land of some three hundred and thirty acres, as yet unopened and unoccupied. The purchase money amounted to nearly one thousand dollars, showing very considerable wealth for those days, in the purchaser's possession.

In this conveyance, which may be found in Book 20, at page 632, in the office of the Register of Middlesex County, at old Cambridge, Massachusetts, Mr. Fenton is described as William Fanton, late of Ireland, mariner, now of Roxbury, in the County of Suffolk.

Over the name of William Fenton, with Anne, his wife, he sold sixty acres of the above tract to Col. Thomas Fitch. (Book 28, page 23, of record in same office.)

Mr. Fenton appears to have taken possession of the property at Rutland at an early date. Upon this tract, which the writer has visited, there was no shelter. Fenton tamed the wilderness.

The Town of Rutland was founded in 1713. Its Indian name was Naquag.

On December 26th, 1686, the Indians conveyed twelve miles square to Henry Willard, Paul Dudley and others.

They, as proprietors, on December 14th, 1715, at their meeting in Boston, set off six miles square for sixty-two families. Jonas Reed, in his history of Rutland, says that the young settlers, joined in companies, swung their packs, shouldered their guns and provisions and marched through the woods from Boston to Rutland. This is picturesque, but in all probability the settlers went by the way of Worcester, along the track of earlier settlements; but the twelve miles, north of Worcester to Rutland were, no doubt, through unbroken forest. Fifty families settled at Rutland in four years. On the 7th of June, 1720, a plot was set apart for a Meeting House, which was occupied the following year.

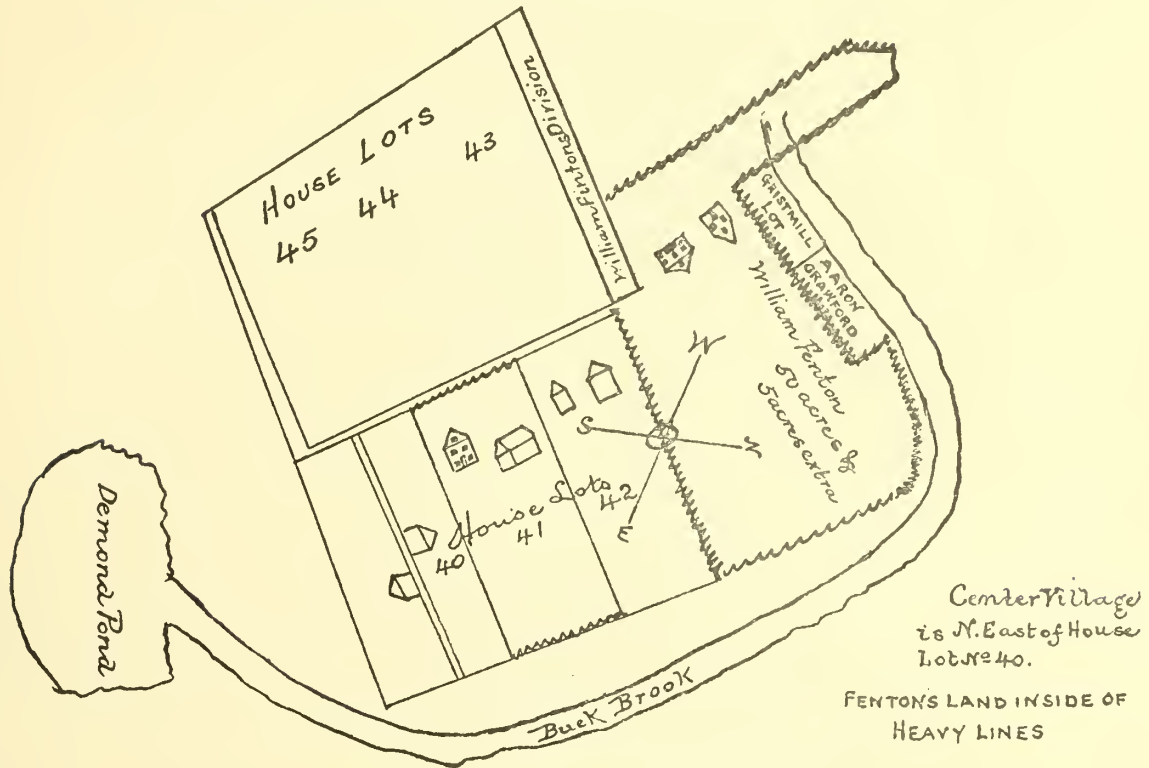
The first mention of Mr. Fenton, as he signed his name, is at the first town-meeting, held at Rutland the last Monday of July, 1722, four months after his purchase from Pitts.

In the list of Town Officers for the ensuing year, Mr. Fenton was chosen Surveyor of Highways, his name this time being entered as Finton in the old town register. Thus we have Fanton, Fenton and Finton for his name.


The tract, upon which the little Fenton family settled, was at the southwest corner of the six miles square, and, as it was almost wholly peopled by Irish emigrants, it was named "Dublin," or "Pond End." This plot is distant a little over a mile from the present village of Rutland. We find that in 1723 there were eight houses, among them the house of William Fenton, situated on a farm of sixty-seven acres.

The following rough tracings from official maps of the settlement show the original grant to Fenton:

The following sketch shows the original grant to Fenton and the additional plots thrown in for good measure.



Further grants of land were made to Mr. Fenton in 1727 and 1744-5.

		<div style="text-align: center;">  </div>		No 6. School District Known as <u>Dublin dist.</u>	
		2 rod road		4 rod road	
Jan 15, 1744/5	Laid out for William Fenton 41 a. & 6 rods of land in 3 rd Div. of up of lot No 41. William Fenton 20 1/2 acres 3 rods Surveyed by	Sept. 19, 1727	Laid out for William Fenton 67 acres & 2 acres allowance for 1 st division to right of Lot No 41. Johny Boice 1836 Spencer	farm owned by Wilder	
	William Fenton Jr. of land in 3 rd Div. of up of lot No 41. William Fenton Jr. 20 1/2 acres Thos. Harman		Surveyed by Wm. Wright		

The two rod road now discontinued was known as Irish Lane. The dotted line 4 rod road is the continuation of the road we drove over going by the pond.

From 1722 to 1747 William Fenton held continuously one office or another as Surveyor, Selectman, Tything-man, Constable, Fence-Viewer or Assessor.

In the year 1723, the Indians became very troublesome and it is reported that fully two-thirds of the settlers moved away.

In 1723, William Fenton's name appears on the Muster Roll of the Company in His Majesty's service, in command of Captain Samuel Wright, at Rutland.

The children of William and Anne Fenton were:

William Fenton, Junior—Born in Ireland, 1716; married Anne Shaw of Brimfield, Massachusetts; died at Brimfield November 14th, 1804.

John Fenton—Evidently named after his grandfather. Lived in Boston, but no record of him has been found.

Agnes Fenton—Who married Adam Galt of Worcester, October 25th, 1744, and became, with her child, a town charge in 1751. From extant town records it is known that, after notice, William Fenton settled with the town for all disbursements on Agnes' behalf. William Galt, the son of "Agnes" Galt, was baptized August 5th, 1764.

TOWN MEETING SEPT. 23, 1751.

"To Grant, money to defray the charge of keeping Agnis Galt."			
"Voted and allowed to Thomas Read for keeping Agnis Galt's son two weeks.....£ 0 2 8			
To five quarts of rum.....	0	5	4
To fetching the granny and other women and for their entertainment at his house.....	0	5	4
For nursing said Galt.....	0	8	0
For other necessarys.....	0	1	4
For keeping said woman 13 weeks.....	1	14	8
For keeping her daughter seven weeks.....	0	6	8
Allowed to John Stone for linning and oatmeal.....	0	3	10
To John Morrey for cloathes and other things.....	0	19	7
To Jona Buckingham, for his wife, as a granny.....	0	2	8
To Ephraim Hubbard for keeping Agnis Galt six weeks and two days	1	1	1
To Samuel Stone for keeping Agnis Galt near five weeks and for three pounds of sugar.....	0	17	7
Allowed to Doc. Fletcher for what he did for said Galt..	0	7	3 ½

—"From Rutland Town Records."

Town Meeting Records.

This baptism shows that the Fentons were still living at Rutland; and

Samuel Fenton—Who married Jane Barr of Hardwick, Massachusetts, October 10th, 1745. Died at Rutland in the year 1754, William and wife being then alive.

During his sojourn in Rutland William Fenton held the following offices, viz.:

Surveyor of Highways—March 11th, 1722-3.

Selectman—March 7th, 1725-6.

Constable—March 1st, 1724-5.

Assessor—March 7th, 1725-6.

Fence Viewer—March 6th, 1726-7.

Surveyor of Highways—March 4th, 1727-8.

Tything man—March 3rd, 1729.

Wm. Fenton as Tithingman—Circa 1729

was in a degree a constable, a selectman, a tax collector, an inspector, a sexton, a home-watcher, and above all, a *Puritan Bumble*. He was, in fact, a general law-enforcer and order-keeper. An informer both in and out of meeting. Carried a fantastic wand, with heavy knob at one end, to prod and awaken the males, and heavy fox tails at the reverse, wherewith to tickle the sleeping females into reverent but startled wakefulness. "A fox taill fixed to ye end of a long staff wherewith he may brush ye faces of them yt will have napps in time of discourse, likewise a sharpe thorn whereby he may pricke such as be most sound. Ye women sometimes sleepe and none know by reason of their enormous bonnets."

A tithingman had ten neighboring families under his charge to watch during the week, to enforce the learning of the catechism at home, especially by children, and sometimes he heard them "Say their Chatachize." He reported non-attendance at public worship and inspected the taverns and warned against too much drink. "He also worned peple out of ye town"—a legal form only, that such might not become town charges.

He also administered the "Oath of fidelity" to new comers and saw that "no young people walked abroad on the eve of the Sabbath."

Surveyor of Highways, etc., etc—March 6th, 1731, to March, 1747, inclusive.

There seems to be no further record in the Town Clerk's Office of Rutland of any official acts or standing as an officer of the town. From contemporaneous records it appears that Mr. William Fenten, Fonton or Fenton lived in Rutland as late as 1754, but after that date, his record is closed.

Search has been made in the records of every possible township for the date of his decease, and the graveyards literally polled for the items.

The Presbyterian graveyard at Rutland, Massachusetts, was a perfect desert, a wreck, at the time of our visit. Great holes where graves had been, broken slate tombstones—a tangle of briars and weeds. There exists a list of old stones, made about 1839, but the name of Fenton does not appear. It has been suggested that, by permission of the church or town, the whole yard—which is small—might be dug over and the underlying slate tombstones be brought to light.

Shortly after the middle of the eighteenth century the Fenton name must have been extinct in Rutland, for reasons herein set forth.

The whole tract known as Dublin was deserted, and now seems to be in its original state.

When Jonas Reed wrote his history of Rutland, he remarks that “no trace in the township is left of all of the settlers of Dublin, or Pond End.”

William Fenton appears to have inherited great strength of mind and body, and for the times in which he lived William Fenton, Yeoman, was a leader of men.

In November, 1738, Mr. Fenton was in Boston, probably on a visit, as is shown by an acknowledgment which he made to a conveyance.

In that year, for a consideration of “love and natural affection,” William Fenton of Rutland, gave to his son, John Fenton, of Boston, sixty acres of land near of the Grist Mill in Rutland.

John Fenton, now of Rutland, in 1740 conveyed this same farm by the Grist Mill to his father, William Fenton, for a consideration of one hundred and fifty pounds.

In the year 1742, Mr. Fenton gave sixty-seven acres of land to his son, William Fenton. In this conveyance the father is designated as a Yeoman and the son as a Husbandman.

In 1743, Mr. Fenton, “for paternal love and affection,” gave to his son, Samuel Fenton, thirty acres of his farm at Rutland, “Being the homestead in my present possession.”

For a consideration of £1800, William Fenton and Anne Fenton, in 1750, conveyed “land where I now live.”

In the year 1749-50, Mr. Fenton sold 108 acres to his son, Samuel, for a consideration of £200.

There seems to be no record of any deeds to their daughter. There are conveyances from both William, Junior, and Samuel, to their father.

From the various papers of record it may be assumed that both William and Ann were educated people. A fair inference would seem to be that the Fentons were, in 1750, upwards of sixty years of age.

The following is a copy of an original petition to Lieutenant Governor Dummer, on file in Boston, in which William Fenton and others ask that they may be appointed soldiers, in place of those whom the Government had billeted on inhabitants of Rutland:

Copy Petition.

Province of Mass Bay.

TO THE HONBLE WILLIAM DUMMER, ESQR.

Lt Govenour and Commander in Chief, &c.

the petition of the Inhabitants of Rutland hereto Subscribers Humbly Showeth

That Whereas yr petrs ye last Sumer laboured under Great Difficultys and hardships by reason of the Warr the Indian Enemy; not being able to raise the Corn & other provisions so that they were obliged to travell near twenty miles for ye same and purchase it a very dear rate, which renders it very difficult to Subsist themselves & their ffamilyys more. Especially ye Soldiers posted there, the allowance made for them by the Province being so small that the petrs find by Experience they cannot afford to billet them at that rate. And ye said Inhabitants being but few in number could they have the benefit of being soldiers there they would be better able to go thro their Sd difficulty & Hardship. Wherefore ye petrs humbly pray that Four of their number may be added to the Five Soldiers already allowed of ye Inhabitants, and put under ye Care of some proper officer to be appointed in ye Town, as a Town Scout, wch would be much For ye benefit & advantage of ye Town in General. What they desire or otherwise gt Four of ye soldiers there that are not Inhabitants may be released & Four others belonging to the Town put in their room, to be added to ye Five aforementd as Town

scout under a proper officer, and this yr petrs conceive to be very reasonable for there are divers soldiers there now allowed of, who only removed off their ffamileys and in a week or some Short time returned again as Soldiers under pay, by means whereof they have a Great advantage beyond yr petrs For that they can now as well take care of their Estate as when their Familys were there; and unless the petrs can be relieved in the premises they must necessarily leave their Settlement in ye Spring & the Town will be intirely broke up. And as in duty bound they shall ever pray &c.

his	William fften
John X Laccoar Sener,	his
mark	Elexendar X Bothall
Malkem hendrey	mark
Moses How	John Laccoar Juner
Dunkin M. farland	Robard Maklam

Date probably Feb., 1724.

In various Massachusetts Town Records we find the marriages of William Fenton's children, excepting, however, John. No ages are given.

Agnes married Adam Galt of Worcester, Massachusetts, October 25th, 1744. First publication of banns October 20th. In a book called "Vital Records—Rutland, Mass.," we read that William Galt, son of Agnes Galt, was baptized in the Rutland Church, August 5th, 1764.

William Fenton, Junior, married Anne Shaw, of Brimfield, Massachusetts, November 28th, 1748.

Samuel Fenton married Jane Barr, of Hardwick, October 10th, 1745. More particular notice of Jane or Janet Barr will be found in later pages. Also more particular notice of William, Junior, and Samuel, will be made in separate chapters.

A long search in the vital statistics of Massachusetts fails to reveal the marriage of John Fenton. A John Fenton and wife appear at several points in Massachusetts, but never in such connection as to enable us to identify them.

CHAPTER VI.

Samuel Fenten.

SAMUEL FENTEN, the next in line of descent, was probably American born. He undoubtedly grew up in Rutland and worked, first upon the paternal farm and later upon the farm set apart to him by his father in 1743. As we have heretofore seen, in the year 1745 Samuel married Jane or Jennet Barr, the daughter of William and Margaret Barr, very substantial people, who lived upon their farm on the east side of the Ware River. By a change of town lines, their farm later became a part of the town of New Braintree, or Braintree Farms as it was sometimes called. Mr. Barr died May 17th, 1789.

In the history of Hardwick and New Braintree the Barr family figure among the first of the little colony, being much respected.

The children of Samuel Fenten, or Finten as the name now appears, were:

1. Joseph, born in 1746.
2. Anne, born in 1748.
3. John, born in 1750.
4. Samuel, born in 1751; and
5. Matthew, born in 1753; all of whom seem to have borne the name of Finten.

Matthew was born just prior to his father's decease, and is in the direct line of descent.

Samuel Fenten died, probably, early in the year 1754 at Rutland and was probably buried there.

Will of Samuel Fenten.

IN the name of God Amen the 29th day of January, 1754, I, Samuel fenten of Rutland, in the County of Worcester province of Massachusetts bay in New England, husbandman being very sick and weak of body but of perfect mind & memory thanks be Given for the same & calling to mind the mortality of my body & not knowing how soon God may take me out of this world do make and ordain these presents to be my Last will & testament that is to say first & principally I ReCommend my precious & immortal soul to

God that gave it trusting in the mercy of God & the alone merits of Jesus Christ my only Redeemer for the pardon of my sins & Eternal Salvation & my body I commit to the earth whence it was originally taken to decently buried by my Executors hereinafter named in hopes of Resurrection at the Last day to life Imortal through the Lord Jesus Christ who is the Resurrection & the life & as touching such worldly Estate as God hath given me my will is the disposal thereof is as follows

I my will is that my just debts & funral charges be paid by my Executors out of my personal Estate if there be so much as will ancer it if not out of the wholl

II I give to my well beloved wife Jennet all & singular my Lands messegges & tenements by her freely to be possessed & enjoyed until my son Joseph com of eage & then that he may have his part & liquies that each of my children have ther part when they com to eage

III I give to my son Josep one fifth part of what my Reall Estat is sould at by my Executors as his part & portion in full out of my Estate

IIII I give to my daughter Anne one fifth part of my Estate at discracion of my Executors wich is her part in full out of my Estate

V I give to my Son John one fifth part of my Estat when he coms of eage which is his part in full out of my Estate

VI I give to my Son Samuel one fifth part of my Estate when he coms of eage which is his part in full out of my Estate

VII I give to my Son Matthew one fifth part of my Estate when he coms of eage which is his part in full out of my Estate

VIII I give to my derly beloved wife all my Chattels youtincals together with all my household goods debts & movabel effects freely to be possessed for ever my will & pleasure is that my wife may have a comfortable mentanenc out of my estate during her life for the tender care she has taken of me in my long illness if she have need of it

IX my will & plesuer is that my Executors shall leet my father William fenton have therten eakers of land Laying at the West End of my Land which he gave me if he demand it upon his promise to levet to my children if he has no need of it

X my will & plesuer is that my Executors shall sell all my lands messeqs & tenements after my deses & according to ther prudanc disposs of that money for the Suport & Interest of my children.

XI I Liquies constetut mak & ordain my well beloved wife Jennet and her father Mathew Barr to be the Executors of this my last will & testament

And I do hearby utterly disalow revoack & dissanus all and every other former testaments wills Legacies & bequests & Executors by me in any ways befor named willed & bequeathed rattifying & confirming this & no other to be my last will and testament in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal the day & year above written Signed Sealed & published pronounced & declared by the said Samuel Fenten as his last will & testament in presanc of us the subscribers

Samuel O fenten (seal)
^{his}
mark

Edward Savage
Abraham Savage
Isaac Savage

On opposite page to signature I find Worcester Co
To the Honble Joseph Wilder Esq Judge of Probate

We under written named Exx & Exr of the testament of Samuel Fenten decd accept the said trust & pray sd will may be proved & approved

Aug 6th 1754

Jennet ^{her}X Fenten
mark
Matthew barr

Admitted to Probate
County of Worcester Province of the Massachusetts Bay in
New England

August 6th 1754

Recorded Liber IV p 373 &c

Endorsed

Saml Fentens Will	6/
Aug. 5th 1754 con	3.6
	3.6
	2.0
	<hr/>
	15/

Recorded Vol 4 p 373
Decree " " 374

In same package I find

Know all men by these presents that we, Jannet Fenten of Rutland, widow, Matthew Barr of New Braintree district, Yeoman, James Thompson of said district, Yeoman & Edward Savage of said Rutland, Yeoman all of the County of Worcester &c

Bond to the Court—£500 for faithful performance of Trust—usual form

Worcester—Probate Records—Nov. 11-03-9 a. m.
Number 20530 May 6, 1761

NOTE.—Joseph Finten a minor in said Co. Son of Samuel Finten late of Rutland farmer decd. chose Oliver Dinsmore to be his Guardian.

Over 14 years of age

Also a Bond of Oliver Dinsmore for £500.

Jane, or Jennet, Finten, the widow of Samuel, remained in Rutland, Mass., but a short period subsequent to Samuel's decease in 1754 but removed, with her little ones, to her native town, now called New Braintree.

This was made evident by the sale of Samuel's homestead at Rutland, for on the 30th of April, 1756, Mrs. Finten and her father, Matthew Barr, as executor, sold the Rutland farm of one hundred and eight acres to William Jameson of Rutland for one hundred and sixty pounds. At that date the widow Finten gave her residence as at New Braintree. She signed by her mark, a notable thing for her to do as she was the daughter of one of the richest and best known farmers of that date.

It was at the local school house that her children were educated.

The little hamlet of New Braintree lies upon the hill far to the east of the Ware River and is as yet only reached after several miles' ride from the railroad. At the time of the writer's visit to it there was one church and a few houses while all over the adjacent country could be seen (in 1910) the foundations of farmhouses that were. From Gilbertsville to New Braintree, some ten miles' drive, not more than a dozen whole houses were passed.

The object of the visit was to locate the home and burial place of Jennet Finten. The house is gone.

The old cemetery was found, two miles south of the vil-

lage of New Braintree. Like most of the graveyards it was somewhat overgrown.

But let us look at the living first.

In the year 1764, April 26th, being still young and no doubt attractive, Jennet, or Janet, Finton married George Nye, one of a quite noted family in New Braintree.

There is no record of Janet's death, but she probably died some time prior to 1785, for we find that George Nye married Sarah Gilbert, a daughter of Jonathan Gilbert, January 25, 1785.

In the Nye private ground, in the northeast of the old cemetery overgrown by huge pines, is the grave of George Nye. The inscription upon the tombstone of white marble reads, "In memory of Mr. George Nye, died February 28th, 1805, age, 87." At the right of this grave are two mounds. In one grave no doubt Janet was buried next to George Nye, and Sarah Gilbert to the right of her, all under the sweeping branches of the huge pines. Unfortunately there are no stones over the two wives' graves, but the records and the graves are so suggestive that there is little room for doubt.

Joseph Finten married Sarah Steel of New Braintree February 23rd, 1769.

When the Revolution broke out Joseph was a resident of Greenwich, Mass.

In 1775 he enlisted in Captain Gray's Company and served three months. For this service he drew a "Bounty Coat."

He enlisted later for permanent service and died therein March 29th, 1780. His widow received half pay until the year 1787.

Anna Finten married Adam Willis at New Braintree December 14th, 1785.

At a later date Adam Willis joined the little colony at Rutland, Vermont, and owned a farm immediately adjoining the homestead farm of his brother-in-law, Matthew Finten.

John Finten married twice. His first wife was Joanna Torrence, his second, Silence Willis. John moved to Rutland, Vt., with Matthew from Worthington, Mass., and sold his farm at Worthington in 1785 to Eben Childs. This date probably marks the time of the removal to Rutland.

Samuel Finten married Martha Crosset of Pelham December 7th, 1773. He settled first with Joseph at Greenwich, Mass., and later joined his brothers John and Matthew at Rutland.

Thus we have brought to Rutland John, Anna, Samuel and Matthew. They lived there near each other. Before taking up the life of Matthew Finten, the youngest child of Samuel and Jennet Fenten, and father of Joseph Seneca Fenton, let us take a glimpse at the life history of William Finten, Junior, the oldest son of William Fenten, the settler.

William Fenten, Junior.

As we have seen, William, Junior, was born in Ireland, in the year 1716, and came to America with his parents. We have also noted that the father, in 1742, gave the son a part of his farm at Rutland, Mass. Having married Anne, daughter of Joshua Shaw, of Brimfield, Mr. Finten removed to that place and took up a farm in that portion of the town known as Wales. After this we find his name as Fenton. It will be borne in mind that we found the Shaws and the Fentons together in early days in Ireland. The Shaws preceded the Fentons in settling in America by a short time. Their various farms are well known in that part of Massachusetts and the family still holds its own as do the Fentons, male and female, in that region in and around Brimfield and Palmer. Correspondence has been had by the writer with the family historian and he has visited these Fentons. William and Anne had only two children, John and Timothy. John married Marcia Moulton; they had a large family and have many descendants in central Massachusetts. Mr. William B. Fenton of Brimfield, corresponded, at the age of eighty years, with the writer, furnishing full lines of John's children, grand and great grandchildren. Timothy married Sally Wales, but had no children. Timothy was a member of the General Court, or Legislature, of Massachusetts, and is quite a celebrated character, as set forth in the local history. The Fentons were a very important family in the building up of the country.

William, Jr., and Anne, his wife, were buried in the old cemetery (of 1732), at the north side of the "Pond," at Wales. The writer visited that graveyard in 1904.

The two large marble tombstones there tell the story.

MR.
WILLIAM FENTON
DIED
14 NOV. 1804 Æ
88

MRS.
ANNE, WIFE OF
MR. WILLIAM FENTON
DIED 20 FEB. 1812
Æ 87

“My children dear this stone drawn near A father’s grave you see Not long ago I was with you And soon you’ll be with me.”	“Death is a sweet and glorious sound, To those who have salvation found It wafts them to the Courts above Where all is joy and happi- ness and love.”
---	--

When the church at Brimfield was ready for occupancy the sittings were assigned. William had a front seat. Mrs. Fenton, a seat on the other side of the church, with the women of the settlement.

CHAPTER VII.

Matthew Finten.

Resuming the line of descent, we come next to Matthew Finton, the youngest child of Samuel and Jennet or Jane Fenten.

As we have seen, Matthew was born just prior to the death of his father.

We have also noted the fact that, about that time, Matthew Barr and Jennet sold Samuel's farm and that Jennet removed with her young children to New Braintree, where, ten years after her first husband's decease, she married Mr. Nye, a prosperous farmer of that town.

Extensive correspondence with men of standing there, and close search in town records, fail to disclose any item of the life of Matthew and his brothers and sister, until about the opening days of the Revolution, when we have the following record:

Joseph, as we have seen, enlisted in 1775 and died in the Continental service in 1780.

John, so far as we have found, had no army record; there was a John Fenton in the navy, but he cannot be identified as our John.

Samuel, enlisted in Captain Clapp's Company in 1775, for temporary service and later, in 1777, enlisted in Captain Whipple's Company.

Matthew, enlisted in Captain Granger's Company hailing the records show, from New Braintree, in the year 1775, when he was about twenty-two years old. This enlistment is the first notice of Matthew from the date of his father's will in 1754.

For service in Granger's Company, evidently a short term, Matthew at the Roxbury Camp signed a receipt for a "Bounty Coat," or its equivalent in money. This receipt is dated Nov. 9th, 1775.

Matthew's name next appears as a Corporal in Webber's Hampshire County Company, although it would seem that he enlisted in 1776, as a private, and was made a Corporal after one year's service.

At the close of the Revolution we find both John and Matthew settled, as farmers, at Worthington, Mass. This was a newly opened country which offered great inducements to settlers. A full account of the opening and settlement of this town may be found in General J. C. Rice's history, of the date of 1853.

General Rice locates the farm and says that, "Mr. Matthew Finten's house stood a few rods east of the spot now (1853) occupied by Mr. Granville B. Hall." An edition issued after Rice's death omits the "Mr." It is impossible to fix the date of the arrival of Matthew at Worthington, the town records not showing his name prior to his marriage, as his deed to purchase is not of record.

John Finten owned a farm of sixty-nine acres at Worthington which, in 1785, he sold to Eben Childs for eighty pounds; but it does not appear whether this farm was located near his brother Matthew's. In the year 1779, or 1780, Matthew married Lovina or Lavinia Bigelow.

Among the earliest settlers at Worthington we find the name of Benjamin Bigelow. His name occurs in the church and state records, he being evidently a man of great prominence. He was from Hartford, Connecticut, having moved from there about the year 1770. Mr. Bigelow married Levinah Thomas January 17th, 1744. His daughter Lovina, wife of Matthew Finton, was born at Hartford in the year 1759, and was baptized May 22nd, 1759. The Bigelow genealogy is in the Appendix. Joseph Seneca Finton was born at Worthington in the year 1781. Joseph took the name of Fenton later. He was the son of Matthew and Lovina Bigelow Finten. Mrs. Benjamin Rockwell was named after her grandmother, but as Lavinia Bigelow Fenton. The older spelling of both names having been abandoned by the family. Levinah and Lovina became Lavinia.

From the time of his marriage until he left Worthington with his wife and child, the town and church records are silent.

In the Worthington Centennial Celebration book we find an ode by Professor F. Everett, of Grand Rapids, Michigan, the last verse of which we quote.

"But the Bard will come back from antiquity down,
"To the friends of his youth, and his dear native town:

"To the scenes of the present—the gathering here—
"Where Worthington's sons and daughters appear,
"Each other to greet—old loves to renew,
"And scenes of their childhood again to review."

Matthew Finton sold his farm to Jedediah Wilbur, apparently just before his marriage, as Mrs. Finten did not join in the conveyance. From this sale we may infer that the young couple went to live with the Bigelows, who lived, General Rice says, "in a house situated north and east of what is now (1853) called the Jonah Brewster farm."

The conveyance to Wilbur recites that,

"I, Matthew Finten, of Worthington, in the County of Hampshire, and State of Massachusetts Bay, for seven hundred pounds paid by Jedediah Wilbur of New London, Conn., convey, "The Lot number sixty-seven in the Town of Worthington, containing one hundred and twenty-nine acres, as the same was surveyed, planned and numbered by Captain Nathaniel Dwight, the surveyor who laid out the lands in said township. It lies adjoining to the north line of the township and is triangular in its form," March 29th, 1779, at Northampton, Mass.

Matthew sold his farm at New Braintree in 1805 to Philip Nye.

From "Vermont."

A POEM BY WENDELL PHILLIPS STAFFORD.

"Dear little State among the dark green hills
Who for thy never-changing bounds didst take
The long, bright river and the azure lake,
And whose deep lap the short-lived summer fills
With sudden sweetness till its wealth o'erspills—
How shall we sing thee for thy beauty's sake,
Or praise thee in a voice that shall not break
For pathos of the theme wherewith it thrills?

"Swarm after swarm thy children have gone forth
But still the old hive keeps its golden store,
Filled by the same bright service as before
With frugal bounty and unwasted worth;
And still they fly, far west and south and north;
Their murmur fills the land from shore to shore;

And if but few return, what myriads more
Dream of thy face and bless thee for their birth!

Thou dost watch with sweet solicitude
The plow fields putting on their green attire,
The blue smoke curling from the cottage fire,
The little schoolhouse, many scarred and rude,
Half shrinking in the shadow of the wood,
And, ringed with loving elms, the tall white spire."

The Fintens in Rutland, Vermont.

In the year 1760 the territory comprising the present State of Vermont had three hundred inhabitants. It was admitted as a State in 1791 when it comprised one hundred and eighty-five towns. Up to the Revolution it was sparsely inhabited.

For many years prior to 1791 both the State of New Hampshire and the State of New York granted lands and charters causing much trouble.

On the 7th of September, 1761, New Hampshire granted Rutland to John Murray and sixty-three others. Seventy shares. No Fenton appears among these.

At a meeting of these proprietors held January 6, 1783, they voted to lay out the town of Rutland.

On the 5th of October, 1788, certain inhabitants of the town established the Congregational Church and the Rev. Samuel Williams, Hollis Professor, of Harvard College, was called and assumed charge. No Fenton appears in list of incorporators.

Settlement.

In the year 1770-1 the first "settlers" of Rutland are said to have arrived, bringing their goods and families on sledges.

The first conveyance seems to have been recorded in 1774.

On the 8th of April, 1785, Matthew Finton bought a farm for \$1,200 from the allotment or "division" of Moses Field.

This farm was on the so-called "highway," a road running north and south through the town of Rutland.

This land was on the crest of a vast and beautiful plateau

some two hundred feet above and half a mile from "Otter Creek," a stream flowing by Rutland and emptying into Lake Champlain. This highway is now known as North and South Main Street, a broad, shady avenue. The farm was near the so-called Rutland and Stockbridge Turnpike, now called Woodstock Avenue.

Matthew Finten brought into Rutland his young wife, Lavinia Bigelow, and certainly one son, Joseph S. Finten, born in 1781.

A son and daughter were born in Rutland, namely, Bigelow C. and Lovina.

Lavinia, his wife, died in her twenty-ninth year, at Rutland, March 13, 1787. Her tomb and stone are in the old Congregational "burying-ground," on the west side of the highway, at a point now known as North Main Street, near Crescent Avenue.

The old frame church stood to the south of the graveyard. It was taken to pieces and moved to a spot in the village in 1802, and destroyed finally in 1826. A handsome modern cottage occupies its first site.

According to various records, Captain Finten, as he was called, was a very able and progressive man and a leader among his people. He held much real and personal property and would seem to have acted as a local banker and trustee.

In 1801 he was chosen a "Selectman," which office he held at the time of his death, having been chosen anew each successive year.

Matthew, for his second wife, married Mrs. Hannah Woods, Junior, at New Braintree, Mass., Dec. 3rd, 1792. His children by this marriage were Loring and Matthew.

"Matthew Finten and Hannah, his wife," were admitted to membership in above named Congregational Church in 1803.

On the 18th of April, 1811, Matthew Finten was chosen a deacon in same church.

November 4th, 1810, his daughter, Lavina Finten, wife of Rev. Josiah Hopkins, was admitted.

At the age of 60 years Matthew Finten was gathered to his fathers, January 24, 1813, in the morning of a Sunday.

Hannah, his second wife, expired on the evening of the same day.

They were buried in separate graves and each has a stone marking the grave.

Their graves are in the old cemetery above mentioned and are in line with and adjoining the tomb of Lavinia, his first wife.

The age of Captain Finten is erroneously stated upon his tombstone.

Matthew and Hannah had two sons, Matthew and Loring, but no record of their birth has been found by me.

The first mention of John Finten at Rutland, Vt., is that he bought a farm on the highway much to the north of the church, for 56 pounds in the year 1787.

Little is known of him from this date to 1818, when he was burned to death in his farm house in an attempt to save some personal property. He died February 22, 1818. Buried in same old cemetery.

There survived him also a son named Samuel, born, where, not known, 1774, died at Pittsford, July 25th, 1854, having had a large family.

His son, Samuel T., also of Pittsford, was born at Rutland, Vt., August 25th, 1810, and died at Pittsford, July 25th, 1887.

He had a son, Charles J. Fenton, born May 29th, 1834, Town Clerk for some years of Pittsford, Vt. Mr. Fenton died at Pittsford, October 29th, 1910.

In a prolonged interview with this great-grandchild of John Finten and great-grandnephew of Matthew Finten, I learned many of the traditions of the Fenton family.

Samuel Finten.

Brother of John and Matthew, owned, and lived, until his death in 1801, upon a small 22 acre farm immediately adjoining Matthew on the east side of the highway.

I find no Samuel Finten stone in any graveyard in Rutland. He probably died in the summer of 1801.

This Samuel was co-temporaneous for twenty-five years with John's son, Samuel.

Note carefully the memorandums of proof attached. They contain the body of this sketch.

Finten tombstones in abandoned yard of Congregational Church at Rutland, Vermont. Situate corner of North Main Street and Crescent Avenue.

Same 50 feet north and left of the other three stones.

IN MEMORY OF
MR. JOHN FINTEN
whose death was
occasioned by the
burning of his home
FEB'Y 22, 1818, AGED 68

An honest industrious man, an affectionate husband, and tender parent, a kind neighbor and valuable citizen.

NOTE.—Straight, square gray stone. Funeral urn bas-relief.

MRS. LAVINIA
WIFE OF
CAPT. MATTHEW FENTON
DIED MARCH 13TH, 1787.
in the 29th year
of her age

No inscription at foot.

White marble, 4 spans high, 3 spans wide, very flat urn cut in marble.

MRS. HANNAH
WIFE OF
DEA. MATTHEW FINTEN
Died
Sunday Evening
Jan. 24th, 1813
Aged 52 years

*Arrayed in glorious grace,
Shall these frail ladies shine
And every shape and every face
Look heavenly and divine*

White marble, 5 spans high, 3 spans broad. Urn cut in flat.

DEACON
MATTHEW FINTEN

Died
Sunday Morning
Jan. 24th, 1813
Aged 55 years.

As a christian exemplary
As a magistrate upright
In him the widow and the orphan
Found a friend and benefactor.

NOTE.—All stones in perfect condition.

NOTE.—Matthew's age as stated on tombstone is error—it should be 60 years.

For many particulars concerning the life of Matthew Finten, and the distribution of his estate, reference is made to the Appendix herein.

For the time in which he lived Mr. Finten was above the average of men with whom he associated. He evidently belonged to and sprang from a sturdy race of yeomen.

We find him responding several times to the call of his country, returning each time to his farm work at New Braintree, from which place he enlisted.

The opening of a newer settlement at Worthington attracted him there, as a single man, and there he found his wife. Undoubtedly the Bigelows and the Fintens were among the leading families in that township.

Then again when the Rutland, Vermont, township offered greater opportunities, Matthew Finten and his little family moved on.

We find that at the new Rutland Mr. Finten associated with all the leading citizens of that township.

In the Appendix will be found the family history of Mr. Finten's children.

CHAPTER VIII.

Joseph Seneca Fenton.

WITH this chapter we commence, as it were, the modern or last period in the history of the Fenton family. It seems like a new start. Heretofore we have been treating of the Fentons of America as colonists and settlers. Always upon their landed estates, or farms, leading quiet, peaceful lives as agriculturists, surrounded by like bucolic settlers; having practically nothing to do with town life, or the affairs of State and nation, save when called to exercise some franchise or fill some office in the general town government. Even the last of those spoken of, heretofore, Matthew Finton, was born, lived and died upon a farm. But, with the new life of the Republic, there developed in the family a desire for a life of outside toil and an interest in the great motion of the day. The boundaries of the paternal acres could no longer hold the impatient spirits of the past revolutionary period. Are we amiss, then, when we write that a new life was imparted into our Fenton family, when the subject of this sketch left farm and family to found a new Fenton race?

As we have seen, Matthew Fenton bought a farm and settled at Worthington, Massachusetts. There he found and married Lovina Bigelow and to them, on January 21st, 1781, was born the subject of our sketch.

Just how long the young couple remained at Worthington is not of record, but we are sure that it was in the early eighties that they moved to Rutland, Vermont, enticed there by the offers held out by the "Proprietors." Rutland was then a growing township, already very well settled.

During young Finton's extreme youth his mother, Lavinia Finton, died at Rutland. Joseph had just completed his sixth year. From 1787 to 1792, when Joseph was eleven years, he had no mother's care. Mr. Finton's second wife, the Widow Woods, also of New Braintree, Massachusetts, assumed the care of Matthew's house and his children, Lavinia, Bigelow and Joseph, during the winter of 1792.

No doubt these three children went to the district school,

which stood on the main street, and which must have been nearby the residence of the Fentons, for we find that almost the entire population was centered upon the hill back of what is now the most settled portion of the city of Rutland. But alas! no record has, as yet, been found to disclose any of the facts relating to the education of Matthew Finton's five children.

It is with sincere regret that the author has to record that, to him, the life of Joseph S. Finton draws a blank, quite up to the time of his marriage, in the year 1808, save that there is a tradition that he engaged in business in New Orleans, Louisiana, but the time or dates are entirely missing. Every possible effort has been made to fill the gap. Mr. Fenton, the *i* in his name being now changed to *e*, married Sarah Thompson Brush, of Ferrisburg, Vermont, February 16th, 1808.

Miss Brush was descended from a long line of illustrious ancestors and was, at the date of her marriage, twenty-five years old. She was born at Bennington, Vermont, February 8th, 1783.

The Brush family came to Vermont, from Long Island, New York, where they had resided for several generations.

William Brush, who married Sarah Thompson, at Bennington, Vermont, Nov. 28th, 1775, was a soldier of note in the war of the Revolution, reaching the rank of a Lieutenant. Mr. Brush died at the home of his daughter at Norwich, Chenango County, New York. Mrs. Brush, who was born at "Nine Corners," Rensselaer County, New York, in the year 1756, died October 19th, 1819, and was buried at Malone, New York. The records say that Mr. Brush was buried at Norwich, but we have been unable to find the exact date of his decease.

Matthew Finton left no will. Upon his decease in 1813, at Rutland, Vermont, his son, Bigelow C. Fenton, and Moses Lester were appointed administrators. The fact of intestacy has enriched the records to such an extent that Joseph S. Fenton's life at that date becomes an open book.

The title to the great farms and the interest in the very valuable personal property, which Matthew Finton left, vested in his three children by his first wife and two by his second wife. The second Mrs. Finton dying the same day as her husband.

On the 19th of April, 1813, Joseph Fenton recites, in a legal document filed at Rutland, that he is the owner of one-fifth of his father's property. He gives his residence as Norwich, New York.

Many later documents are of record relating to the disposition of their father's property, as will be seen in the Appendix. From the records it would appear that Bigelow Finton's middle name was Clarence. He followed the fortunes of Joseph, but was living in Rutland in 1804. On August 31st, 1813, Miss Lavinia Finten, of Rutland, Vermont, was married to the Reverend Josiah Hopkins, of New Haven, Vermont.

Of the children by the second wife, Matthew moved to Ellisburgh, Jefferson County, New York, while Loring followed his half-brother, Joseph, to Norwich, where he conducted a store for the sale of general merchandise.

We come now to the life at Norwich, New York, of Mr. Fenton and his family.

As Mr. Fenton had already established himself at Norwich he, and Mrs. Fenton, settled down there at once. The first event which we find of record is the birth of their son, whom they named after their ancestors, William and Matthew. The parents united with the First Congregational Church of Norwich at its organization on the 19th of June, 1814. Mr. Fenton contributed \$1,000. A Mr. Truman Enos was, for a time, about the year 1810, a partner of Mr. Fenton's.

In the church records we find that the Rev. Mr. Benedict baptized William Matthew, Sarah Frances, Lavinia Bigelow and Julia Isabella, at various times.

From 1814 to 1816 Mr. Fenton read sermons at the Sunday services, when they had no pastor.

Prayer meetings were held in a large kitchen of Mr. Enos' house. In the fall of 1812 Rev. Jonathan Hascall came through Norwich, stopping with Mr. Enos, who engaged the so-called "Old Yellow Tavern" for religious services. The ball room being used the following Sunday, when Mr. Hascall preached to a good sized congregation, it is recorded.

The new Congregational Church building, and Mr. Fenton's residence, were situated upon the public square. Family tradition has it that Mr. Fenton was one of the leading spirits

in all religious movements at Norwich, and kept open house for the clergy.

It is recorded in the Norwich town history that, through the personal efforts, and additional contribution of each, of Messrs. Fenton and Enos, the new church was, in 1819, consecrated, free of debt. It is stated that the pews were "box-pews." Loring Fenton united with the church in 1817. He lived until his decease, in 1836, at the age of 35 years, in Norwich. The Fentons took their letter from the Norwich to the Palmyra Church, October 10th, 1830.

That Joseph S. Fenton's life was a busy one we gather from the records. We find him in business shortly after his marriage and he seemed never to tire of work. In the year 1818, Mr. Fenton, and others, petitioned the New York State Banking Department for a charter for a bank at Norwich. The petition was granted and on April 21st, 1818, the Bank of Chenango was incorporated. Joseph S. Fenton and Lot Clark each subscribed for two hundred shares. We find the names of Loring Fenton and Truman Enos also among the subscribers. An additional one hundred shares were taken later by Messrs. Fenton and Clark. On July 7th, 1818, Mr. Fenton was elected one of the directors of the bank. On June 16th, 1824, Mr. Fenton was appointed cashier, which position he held several years. By 1829 Mr. Fenton had probably dissolved his connection with the Norwich bank, as we find him as cashier of the Wayne County Bank, at Palmyra, New York.

As Lot Clark and his descendants have been associated with the Fentons for a century, a passing notice of Mr. Clark, in Chenango County, may not be amiss. Lot Clark was admitted to practice in the Common Pleas Court in 1816, and became a Supreme Court counselor later. He was District Attorney of Chenango County from 1822 to 1828 and served a term as Member of Congress. We find his name, in the legal records of Rutland, as a notary, at Norwich in 1817.

In either 1829 or 1830 Mr. Fenton moved to Palmyra. The Wayne County Bank of Palmyra was chartered April 30th, 1829, with a capital of \$100,000. Mr. Fenton was cashier and Mrs. Rockwell had many a tale to tell of the journeys she took with her father, on financial errands, in private carriage, stage coach and canal packet boat.

Of the life at Palmyra little is of record and we have

only family tradition. The Clerk of Session of Palmyra Presbyterian Church writes, that, on looking over the church records, he finds that "the Fentons were very much in evidence about the church." From 1830 to 1838 he mentions that Joseph, Henry, Jane, Sarah, Catharine, Lavinia and Julia were members of the church. In October, 1833, Joseph S. Fenton was ordained as an elder.

It is a matter of great regret that other and further information is wanting concerning the Fenton family residence in Palmyra.

After a busy life at Palmyra, Mr. and Mrs. Fenton removed to Michigan, to join their eldest son, Col. William M. Fenton. They settled at what was then called Fentonville, now Fenton.

The house in which they lived still stands at Fenton, a very old-fashioned, plain, square house, of colonial architecture, with tall pillars in front reaching to the roof. The Fenton mansion is now in good repair, having a very home-like and hospitable appearance.

Sarah Thompson Brush died at Fentonville, Michigan, October 5th, 1845, and was buried there; her tombstone recites,

"SARAH THOMPSON,"
WIFE OF JOSEPH S. FENTON.

Died Oct. 5th, 1845.
Aged 62 years 8 months
and seventeen days.

"Sorrow not even as others which
have no hope—for if we believe that
Jesus died and rose again, even so
them also which sleep in Jesus will
God bring with him. 1st Thessaloni-
ans, 4 ch., 13 and 14 verses."

Mr. Fenton survived his wife several years. He died at Flint, Nov. 14th, 1851. His tombstone recites,

"JOSEPH S. FENTON"
Died Nov. 14th, 1851,
in the 71st year of his age.

"Thou shalt come to the grave in
a full age—like as a shock of corn
cometh in his season. Job 5, 26."

Thus ended the mortal life of two souls, who during that long and useful life were loved and revered by all with whom they came in contact.

From their children we have learned that their devotion to their family was their supreme task, and yet a labor of love. Theirs was a sunny life, tempered only by such shadows as will flit across the mortal view, such indeed as have been ordained to all mankind by the Creator.

CHAPTER IX.

The Children of Joseph S. Fenton.

WILLIAM MATTHEW FENTON was born at Norwich, Chenango County, December 19th, 1808.

We note here a few words given us by his sister; reserving space hereafter for a more extensive biography:

"His career, in early life, was very romantic, precocious in study; a mere boy while in college. Graduating at seventeen, becoming engaged to the beautiful Adelaide, whom he married after eleven years of sea life, having chosen this rather than studying longer. Afterwards becoming distinguished at the bar in Michigan; high in political office. When the flag of his country was lowered at Charleston and "secession" ruled the South he renounced business, raised his own men, became himself the soldier-patriot, saying to me once 'I have known in years of my youth what it was to meet the colors of the Flag on the high seas, lonely, homesick, and now I'll fight for it to my last day.' One of Colonel Fenton's sons, Joseph Brush, left the school in which he was fitting for college and unexpectedly appeared on the battlefield, in Georgia, with some of his father's regiment, in borrowed clothing.

Brush so distinguished himself in his first appearance on the field of battle that he was made Second Lieutenant, but, alas! he was wounded and his military career, to which he would have admirably fitted, was cut short."

Frances Fenton was born at Norwich, February 18th, 1810, died at Norwich, May 22nd, 1821.

"A child of precocious mind, marvellous beauty, sweetness of character and loving from her mother's lips Bible stories."

Lavinia Bigelow Fenton was born at Norwich, Sept. 11th, 1811. A fuller biography will be found later.

Julia Isabella Fenton, born at Norwich, July 26th, 1813, whose biography is told in another page.

Joseph Brush Fenton was born at Norwich, Sept. 9th, 1815. His sister writes as follows: "Second son of Joseph

S. Fenton, a fine scholar, graduated at Yale College, with honors, studied law at once, settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, and became a distinguished lawyer. I could give much of eulogy that fell around his dear memory from the bar, the Chief Justice and his personal friends. Where he fitted for Yale I do not know, but my mother told me once how she loved to see her boys poring over their Latin books, on the floor by her feet, wherever she sat, from room to room."

Joseph Brush Fenton entered Yale College in the sophomore class of 1832. Graduated in 1835 and was valedictorian. He studied law with William H. Seward, at Auburn, New York; was admitted to the bar in 1837; moved to Cincinnati in 1845, and had an office with Salmon P. Chase. Joseph Brush Fenton died at Cincinnati, Ohio, February 28th, 1848, aged thirty-three years.

Catharine Fenton was born at Norwich, Sept. 19th, 1817. Of her, her sister writes: "She was a devoted reader and student. She had marvellous beauty; was a bridesmaid at her sister Julia's wedding. My mother told me that a lady at the wedding congratulated her saying, 'Oh! Mrs. Fenton, you will have to lose another daughter soon, the bridesmaid is so beautiful.' Within a short time she did lose her beautiful Catharine, in an untimely grave. Some said she had studied too much. She was all intellect, with an almost supernatural complexion." Catharine died at Palmyra March 1st, 1836.

Henry Fenton was born at Norwich, Sept. 1st, 1819. His sister writes: "Henry was a remarkable boy; fitted for Yale and fitted for Heaven. In two years after Catharine's death he too passed away. He was my chum, always petting, teasing and loving me, giving out his store of knowledge and provoking me to know everything to be known, in books or out of them. I remember our father talking with some visitor, discussing some word, 'I'll ask Henry,' said father, 'for he is my encyclopaedia,' and Henry answered it, bringing up his authority for it, much to father's satisfaction. We were two mischievous chums. Henry would have made as brilliant a record at Yale as his older brother without doubt." Henry died at Palmyra March 21st, 1838.

There were two children named Sarah Frances, the first dying in early childhood.

Sarah Frances Fenton, the second, was born at Norwich,

November 4th, 1821. A more extended notice of this remarkable woman will be found on later pages of this book.

Jane Fenton, always spoken of as Jennie, was born at Norwich, August 1st, 1824. Her sister writes: "Our dear Jennie, the mirth and youngest of all the flock, was strikingly handsome, a slender figure, fair complexion, soft, auburn hair curling naturally in ringlets." A fuller biography will be found in later pages.

The above is a hasty review of the family of Joseph S. and Sarah Thompson Fenton. In the following pages the later generation will find a fuller history of those who survived the rigorous life of those early days of the nineteenth century.

This family was in those and later days in touch with many of the men and women who became later celebrated in the annals of the State and Nation. It is certain that the Fentons of the nineteenth century were in the front rank of the notables of their time.

<p>WILLIAM MATTHEW FENTON—ADELAIDE S. BIRDSALL b. Dec. 19th, 1865, at Nor- wich, N. Y. d. May 12th, 1871, at Flint, Mich.</p>		<p>HENRY b. Nov. 10th, 1840, at Fen- tonville, Mich. d. July 7th, 1904, at Bay City, Mich.</p>		<p>JOSEPH BRUSH b. June 28th, 1843, at Fen- tonville, Mich.</p>		<p>SARAH ROCKWELL b. Sept. 4th, 1852, at Flint, Mich. d. Feby. 4th, 1878, at To- peka, Kansas. Unmarried</p>															
<p>ADA BIRDSALL b. June 5th, 1833, at Fenton- ville, Mich. d. Feby. 25th, 1854, at Flint, Mich.</p>		<p>Wm. B. McCreery, Dec. 11th, 1864, at Flint, Mich. b. Aug. 27th, 1836, at Mount Morris, N. Y. d. Dec. 9th, 1896, at Flint, Mich.</p>		<p>WILLIAM JOSEPH b. Jan. 6th, 1870, at Flint, Mich. m. Mabel Borsion Sept. 4th, 1901, at Cedar Rapids, Nebraska.</p>		<p>HENRY D. b. Dec. 26th, 1872, at Flint, Mich. d. Dec. 27th, 1905.</p>		<p>CHESTER T. b. Nov. 26th, 1875, at Bay City, Mich.</p>		<p>THOMAS W. m. Mamie D. Keating, Sept. 28th, 1898, at Bay City, Mich.</p>		<p>MARY ISABELLA b. Oct. 12th, 1877, at Bay City, Mich. m. Ella Hedney, Dec. 1910.</p>		<p>MARY LAVINIA b. Sept. 23rd, 1882, at Bay City, Mich. m. Walter S. Schooley, Feby. 25th, 1906, at Bay City, Mich.</p>		<p>ABE LAIDE LOUISE b. Nov. 2nd, 1875, at Flint, Mich. d. May 29th, 1885, at Flint, Mich.</p>		<p>VIRGINIA BRUSH b. Dec. 4th, 1881, at Flint, Mich. m. Wm. H. Dayman, b. Oct. 23rd, 1884, Nov. 9th, 1910, at Flint, Mich.</p>		<p>LOUISE THAYER b. Oct. 16th, 1879, at Flint, Mich.</p>	
<p>FENTON B. b. April 21st, 1866, at Flint, Mich. Unmarried.</p>		<p>ABELAIDE F. b. Sept. 16th, 1869, at Flint, Mich.</p>		<p>HOWARD m. Jerome H. Kemick, June 26th, 1896, at Flint, Mich.</p>		<p>RATHABINE b. Oct. 2th, 1879, at Flint, Mich. d. May 25th, 1878.</p>		<p>MATTHEW m. Matthew Davison, Jr., June 5th, 1906, at Flint, Mich.</p>		<p>ABE LAIDE McCREERY b. Sept. 1st, 1901, at Flint, Mich.</p>		<p>BENEVIDE b. Feb. 15th, 1911.</p>		<p>JAMES ALBERT b. Oct. 26th, 1909.</p>		<p>RATHABINE McCREERY b. April 3rd, 1897, at Detroit, Mich.</p>		<p>JEROME B., JR. b. Dec. 21st, 1903, at Detroit, Mich.</p>		<p>MATTHEW b. Feb. 20th, 1906, at Marshall, Mich.</p>	
<p>LAVINIA BIGELOW FENTON—BENJAMIN ROCKWELL b. Sept. 20th, 1811, at Nor- wich, N. Y. d. Sept. 17th, 1887, at Yon- kers, N. Y.</p>																					
<p>SARAH FENTON b. Feby. 8th, 1837, at Flint, Mich. d. 1853, at Brooklyn, N. Y.</p>										<p>FENTON m. Rebecca Dwight, Oct. 8th, 1867, at Brooklyn, N. Y. b. Mar. 1st, 1843.</p>											
<p>BENJAMIN FENTON b. Sept. 7th, 1868, at Min- neapolis, Minn.</p>										<p>THEODORE DWIGHT m. Minnie T. Case, Oct. 26th, 1893, at Brooklyn, N. Y. b. Jan. 1, 1869.</p>											
<p>REBECCA D. b. Jan. 8th, 1881, at Brook- lyn, N. Y.</p>										<p>DWIGHT m. Virginia Tompkins, Feby. 8th, 1904, at Brooklyn, N. Y. b. Apr. 29th, 1885.</p>											
<p>KATE BOWERS b. June 22nd, 1883, at Brooklyn, N. Y. d. July 21st, 1885.</p>										<p>ASTLEY b. Aug. 11th, 1861, at Bloom- field, N. J.</p>											
<p>JOSEPHINE AND KATE b. Jan. 6th, 1900.</p>										<p>ALICE b. Nov. 12th, 1904.</p>											

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CHAPTER X.

Colonel William Matthew Fenton.

COLONEL WILLIAM M. FENTON was born in Norwich, Chenango County, New York, December 19th, 1808. He was graduated from Hamilton College, Clinton, New York State, in 1826, and then spent some years upon the sea. He rose from the rank of common sailor to the office of the first mate of a merchantman and was then proffered the captaincy, but declined. He was married in April, 1835, to the daughter of Judge James Birdsall, of Norwich, New York, and in July of that year settled in Pontiac, Michigan, engaging in the mercantile business with Robert Le Roy.

In April, 1837, he settled in Dibbleville, Genesee County, the village that later changed its name in his honor. He engaged in business as a merchant and real estate broker. He was admitted to the bar in 1842. In 1844 he was defeated as a Democratic candidate for the State Legislature, but in 1846 he was elected to the Senate of that body from the Genesee district. He took an active part in the State School for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind. In 1848 he was elected Lieutenant Governor and re-elected in 1850.

Upon removing to Flint he was appointed by President Pierce as Register of the Land Office there, and continued his official duties in that capacity until the removal of the office to Saginaw.

In 1856 he visited Europe with his family. In 1858 he was elected Mayor of Flint and gave efficient service.

When the war broke over the country there was no more loyal supporter of the Union cause than William M. Fenton. He wired Governor Blair to draw on him for \$5,000 to equip the first company of troops called into service. Early in 1861 he was made Major of the Seventh Michigan Infantry, but before mustering he was commissioned by Governor Blair as Colonel of the Eighth Michigan Infantry. He saw to it that the regiment was drilled and ready for service in a remarkably short time. After some weeks spent in Camp Anderson at Grand Rapids the regiment was mustered into the U. S. ser-

vice at Fort Wayne and departed for Washington. This company with the Seventy-ninth New York was carried by the ocean steamer "Vanderbilt" in the expedition to Hilton Head, North Carolina, under General Sherman, the Brigade Commander being Brigadier General Isaac I. Stevens. The introduction to actual warfare was the attack and capture of the Confederate forts. Walker and Beauregard, in South Carolina, the former being taken possession of by the Eighth Michigan Regiment. The first battle in which the regiment participated was at Coosaw River on New Year's Day, 1862. At the battle of James Island the Eighth lost heavily, being in the advance attack on a formidable fort and not receiving adequate support. The loss to the regiment in killed, wounded and missing was one-third of their entire number. One of those killed in the conflict was Captain S. C. Guild of Flint, commanding Company A. During these operations Colonel Fenton had been in command of the brigade and upon his own request was released and assumed the direct command of his regiment. Being returned to Fortress Monroe the regiment was attached to the Army of the Potomac and fought at Second Bull Run, Chantilly, South Mountain and Antietam, at the latter place twenty-seven men out of two hundred in actual engagement were lost outright. Colonel Fenton resigned his command while at Newport News, his health being greatly impaired.

Upon his return to Michigan he was Democratic candidate for Governor and later devoted his attention to his business, including the building of the brick block in Saginaw Street, erected in 1865, and which after forty years of the city's growth and improvement is a credit to the architecture of Flint.

He was made Chief of the Fire Department upon the organization of a city government, his death on May 12th, 1871, being the result of his zeal in the performance of his duty.

His loss was a blow to the community and was keenly felt throughout the city. At the time of his funeral business houses closed and many were draped in mourning. He was a ripe scholar and had attained to the fullest confidence of his townsmen. His wife had preceded him three years and he was survived by his four children.

The Funeral of Col. Fenton.

Wednesday, the 17th inst. having been assigned for the funeral obsequies of the lamented Colonel Fenton, the Mayor issued the following proclamation, which was strictly observed:

A PROCLAMATION.

BY THE MAYOR.

Whereas, It has pleased the All-wise Disposer of Events, to remove by death from our midst, in the unselfish discharge of his duty, our fellow-citizen, the HON. WILLIAM M. FENTON, who, by his many noble qualities of mind and heart, had endeared himself to all who came within the circle of his influence; and who has for many years been closely identified with the social and material interests of our City; and

Whereas, Wednesday, the 17th inst., has been appointed as the time for the funeral obsequies of the departed:

Now Therefore, It is earnestly recommended to the citizens of Flint, that ALL PLACES OF BUSINESS BE CLOSED on that day, from the hour of twelve o'clock noon, to four o'clock in the afternoon; and that the people generally lay aside and cease from their usual avocations, and unite in paying this last tribute of respect to the honored dead, and thus give expression to their heartfelt sympathies with the bereaved family and friends.

D. S. FOX,

Mayor of the City of Flint.

Dated this 15th day of May, 1871.

At an early hour, the city was crowded with people from all parts of the county, assembled to pay the last sad tribute of respect to the honored dead. For the same purpose, prominent citizens were present from nearly every section of the State. Although thronged with a concourse of people, the melancholy nature of the occasion which brought them together was manifested in the sadness of the countenances, and by the surrounding emblems of mourning. Flags were displayed at half-staff, and the buildings and stores were draped and festooned with the customary insignia of sorrow.

A few among the most conspicuous thus clothed in "the

habiliments of woe," were the Fenton block, the Court House, the City Hall, Brockway block, Awanga block, the Fire Engine rooms, Masonic Hall, Post Office and News Depot, Irving House, the City Hotel, the Germania Hotel, the Citizens National Bank, the First National Bank, the Covert & McRoy block, Roosevelt's livery stables, the stores of F. W. Judd, M. S. Elmore, Tousey & Spencer, W. L. Smith & Co., Smith, Warren & Co., Damon, Stewart, Barker, Ripley & Co., Ripley & Witherbee, McIntyres Bros., C. A. Mason & Co., Breckler & Lewinstein, Robert Ford, F. H. & E. O. Pierce, W. B. Colson, H. Brown & Co., C. Morrison, F. B. Hill, J. & W. Pirnie, Haynes & Turner, S. N. Androus, and many others.

The funeral services were placed under the control of Genesee Valley Commandery of Knights Templar, and a programme laid down which, notwithstanding the immense throng present, and the elaborate details of the procession, was carried out in the most admirable order, without interruption or confusion at any time, or in any stage of the proceedings. This was mainly effected through the fine executive ability of the marshal of the procession, Hon. A. Thayer, aided by the efficient services of his assistant marshals—Messrs. William Hamilton, Jerome Eddy, A. T. Crosman, J. C. Decker, W. A. Miller, and H. C. Spencer.

By noon, the various organizations from abroad which had signified their intention to join in the services, had arrived; and having partaken of refreshments, at one o'clock fell into line, which was formed at that hour on Saginaw Street, in the following order of

PROCESSION.

Flint Cornet Band.

Fenton Steam Fire Engine Company, with Engine drawn by four white horses.

Fenton Hose Company.

Protection Engine Company No. 2, with Engine drawn by four black horses.

Protection Hose Company.

Hook & Ladder Company No. 1, with Apparatus drawn by four brown horses.

Sack & Bucket Company, with Apparatus drawn by four
four white horses.

Rescue Engine Company No. 3, with Engine drawn by two
brown horses.

Rescue Hose Company.

Survivors of the Eighth Michigan Volunteers, with Battle
Flag, under command of Major Lyon.

Rankin Encampment, No. 46, I. O. O. F., of Fenton.

Flint River Encampment, No. 28, I. O. O. F.

Genesee Lodge No. 24, I. O. O. F.

With Delegations of Odd Fellows from Pontiac Lodge No. 3,
Lapeer Lodge No. 94, Fenton Lodge No. 125, Gaines
Lodge No. 106, and Rankin Lodge No. 139
of Flushing.

Genesee Lodge No. 174, F. & A. M.

Flint Lodge No. 23, F. & A. M.

Vienna Lodge No. 205, F. & A. M.

Flushing Lodge No. 223, F. & A. M.

With Delegations from Union Lodge of Strict Observance
No. 2, Detroit, and from various other Lodges
throughout the State.

Band of the 1st U. S. Infantry, from Fort Wayne.

Detroit Commandery K. T. No. 1.

Pontiac Band.

Pontiac Commandery K. T. No. 2.

Fenton Commandery K. T. No. 14.

East Saginaw City Band.

St. Bernard Commandery K. T. No. 16.

Bay City Commandery K. T. No. 26.

Genesee Valley Commandery K. T. No. 15.

Hearse,
With Pall Bearers, viz: Russell Bishop, Flint; John H.
Harmon, Detroit; Josiah Turner, Owosso; Benja-
min Cotharin, Flint; Alexander McFarlan, Flint;
Wm. A. Moore, Detroit; Theodore Romeyn,
Detroit; B. O. Williams, Owosso; and
a Guard of Honor from Detroit
Commandery.
Officers of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar.

Clergy.
Mourners.
Members of the Bar.
Common Council and City Officers.
Bank Directors and Officers.
Friends from Abroad.
Citizens.

The fire engines, hose carts, and other apparatus of the Department were hung with mourning drapery, wreaths and devices of immortelles, and other chaste memorials, the elegant arrangement of which bore self-evident testimony that the lady friends of the late Chief Engineer had taken an active part in devoting to him this last tribute of their regard. The mourning emblems of the various societies; the rich regalia and waving plumes of the Knights Templar, as their drawn swords sparkled in the sunlight; and the showy uniforms of the fire companies, moving to the solemn music of the bands midst the multitude of mourners and the tolling of bells formed a funeral pageant such as Flint had never before and Michigan seldom seen.

Having marched from Saginaw to Beach Street, the column halted with its center at the residence of the deceased, where the body lay in state, in an elegant metallic casket, ornamented with silver mountings inscribed with Masonic emblems, and bearing a silver plate with the words:

WILLIAM M. FENTON.
BORN DEC. 19, 1808.
DIED MAY 12, 1871.

At the head of the coffin was a crown in immortelles; at the foot, draped in mourning, his trumpet as Chief Engineer.

At two o'clock the funeral services were opened with the reading of the sublime and impressive burial service of the Protestant Episcopal Church, by Rev. Marcus Lane, rector of St. Paul's Church. The beautiful hymn, "Passing Away," was then sung by a choir consisting of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Whiting, Mrs. Eli Smith and M. S. Elmore. The following funeral address was delivered by Rev. Henry H. Northrop:

Address of Rev. H. H. Northrop.

Said our much loved and highly venerated Gen. Cass, on the 30th of June, 1852, in the United States Senate, upon the announcement of the death of Henry Clay, "Another great man has fallen in our land, ripe, indeed in years and in honors, but never dearer to the American people than when called from the theatre of his services and renown to that final bar where the lofty and lowly must all meet at last."

* * * "And that it has been my fortune often to differ from him, yet I believe he was as pure a patriot as ever participated in the councils of a nation."

And these truthful words are befitting this solemn occasion, and the individual whose lifeless remains we are about to sepulchre in the house appointed for all living.

This sudden death, so unexpected and unlooked for, has cast a gloom not only over this afflicted family and this circle of immediate relatives, but over the entire city, and I may add over the State, where he has so long resided, and in whose public affairs he has so often been called to participate. The proclamation of our respected Mayor—the closing of our places of business, the adjournment of our Court, this large and unprecedented procession, and numerous tokens of mourning everywhere exhibited, are outward expressions of that deep sorrow felt in the hearts of every true and loyal citizen of Flint.

As a city, we are in deep mourning. Our first and most distinguished citizen has been suddenly taken from us. We may emphatically say "the Lord has taken away our *leader*," and we have no one to take his place.

I speak what will find a response in every heart. No one could create a void so difficult to fill, no one could leave us whose loss would be so deeply felt, and may I say, it comes upon us just at this time with unusual severity. A few

weeks ago we were called to lay in the grave our much loved Witherbee, who had scarcely reached the maturity of his business career; Henderson and Crapo, so wise in counsels and mature in judgment, were taken from us but a few months earlier. No city in this State has lost, by death, in so short a time, so many of its principal business men.

Under these dark clouds we are sitting to-day, and it is befitting that we should put on sackcloth and mourn in view of these chastisements of the Almighty, and these mournful obsequies are but faint tokens of the deep sorrow that fills our hearts.

The Hon. William M. Fenton was born on the 19th of December, 1808, in Norwich, Chenango County, New York. His father, Hon. Joseph S. Fenton, was one of the first citizens in wealth and social position, being a banker and an elder in the Presbyterian Church, and one of its main pillars of support. His mother, a member of the same church, was distinguished for devoted piety and earnest zeal in every good work. William was the eldest of nine children, all of whom the devoted mother consecrated to the God of her fathers. In early life, while under the parental roof, he was remarkable for his integrity and truthfulness, and exhibited a love for knowledge, which made him a most indefatigable student, so that when but fourteen years of age he passed his examination and entered Hamilton College, then under the care of President Davis. While in college he boarded with the venerable president and was graduated at the age of eighteen, when most young men are only prepared to enter. Though so young, yet he acquitted himself with credit to himself and honor to his parents. From the college halls he entered the banking office of his father. In consequence of ill health from too close confinement, after a few months he entered upon a sea-faring life, which he followed for a number of years, where he attained that physical energy and discipline, and gained that knowledge of human nature which was of great service to him through the remainder of his life. When a sailor before the mast, he learned to obey, which qualified him to command when called as a mate to take charge of one of the largest vessels in the merchant service.

In 1834 he emigrated, a young man of twenty-six, to this State. After residing as a merchant for two years at Pontiac, he came to this county, bringing with him his bride, the daugh-

ter of the Hon. James Birdsall, of Norwich, and purchased the land upon which the village of Fentonville now stands.

In 1839 he commenced the practice of law in Fentonville, and about the same time engaged in politics, always acting with the Democratic party. His talents as a lawyer, and his extensive knowledge of men and things at once made him a leader in the party.

In 1846 he became a member of the State Senate, and showed himself to be one of the ablest and most influential of its members. He was twice elected Lieutenant Governor from 1848 to 1852, while Governors Ransom and Barry were in office. He presided with dignity and ability over the Senate, and had the party to which he belonged continued in power, would have been raised to the office of Governor.

Twice he was nominated by his party to the office of Circuit Judge, and no one doubts that he would have made an able and impartial officer.

Once he was nominated for Governor, with Governor Crapo for his competitor, when friends and foes were compelled to admit the superior qualifications of both those excellent men.

In 1850 he removed to Flint, which has been his home since, and his life has been closely identified with the history of this city in all its advancement and growth. He has been Register of the United States Land Office until its removal from this city. He has served as a member of the State Military Board at the commencement of the rebellion; as Mayor of the city; as Engineer of the Fire Department; as one of the originators of our beautiful Glenwood Cemetery Association. He was the builder of the block that bears his name, the ornament of the city, and recently, with a few others, the founder of the Citizens' National Bank, of which he was the first president. No important enterprise in this city was undertaken until he was consulted. Such a man so clear in conception, so energetic in execution, so respected and beloved cannot be taken away without the whole city being stunned with the shock, followed by sorrow deep and bitter.

"And is he gone? The pure of the purest,
The hand that upheld our bright banner the surest,
Is he gone from our struggle away?
But yesterday lending a people new life,
Cold, mute, in the coffin to-day."

My attempted portrait of Col. Fenton would be most imperfect should I omit to call attention to the noble part he acted as a patriot in putting down the rebellion.

When the President called for volunteers, he was at the commencement of the war, heart and soul for maintaining the government, and for the time, ignoring all party distinctions, he offered his services to his country, and was by the Governor first appointed a Major in the Seventh Regiment of Michigan Infantry, and on the 8th of August, 1861, was commissioned Colonel of the Eighth Infantry of Michigan Volunteers. This regiment he was mainly instrumental in recruiting, and seemed to diffuse his own courage through the entire command. No regiment has a better record, and while health permitted, his record and their own are identical.

So rapid and numerous were the marches accomplished, that in the history of the Michigan regiments they have been called the "wandering or itinerant" regiment. On the 27th of September, 1861, Col. Fenton started for the seat of war in Virginia with his regiment, to aid in putting down one of the worst and most gigantic rebellions upon which the sun ever shone.

At Annapolis, Md., they embarked as part of the expedition under General Sherman to Hilton Head. Says Mr. Lannan in his Red Book of Michigan, "Down to Nov. 1st, 1861, it had been engaged in nine battles, occurring in four different States, South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia and Maryland."

"This brave and patriotic regiment commenced its battles at Port Royal, S. C., Nov. 7th, 1861, and was engaged most creditably in several others from that time to April 16th, 1862, when it became specially noted in the spirited engagement on the reconnoissance made on board the steamer Honduras by Col. Fenton at Wilmington Island, Ga., where, after landing from the boat, it encountered the 13th Georgia, about 800 strong, and drove them from the field in confusion, with loss, and leaving their dead on the ground. In the reconnoissance 10 were killed and 35 wounded." In this engagement fell Adjutant Pratt, of this city, so deeply mourned.

On the 16th of June following, an assault was made on the enemy's works at Secessionville, on James Island, S. C. The direct attack was made by Col. Fenton, under Gen. Stevens. Col. Fenton led the brigade, while his own gallant

Eighth was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Graves. This was one of the most dashing assaults of the war, but made at a distressing sacrifice of life, the Eighth Michigan losing 185 in killed, wounded and missing, out of 834, including 12 out of 22 officers. Captain Simeon Guild and B. B. Church here fell mortally wounded. Captain Guild was well-known and dearly beloved in this city.

Col. Fenton's health failing, he was compelled to tender his resignation, which was accepted in March, 1863. Says one who knows whereof he affirmed: "His military record is identified with the gallant Eighth Infantry, during a part of its most active and brilliant service. Much of the success of the regiment is due to the early training and efficient drill acquired while commanded by Col. F." His name has passed into the history of his country, and his gallantry and patriotism become a part of the record of which, as a city and a State, we are proud.

When Col. Fenton could no longer serve in the army, he did what he could to give aid and comfort to the government.

As a lawyer, he was among the first in our city, which will not suffer in comparison with any other bar in the State. In his legal profession he was extensively known throughout the State, and highly esteemed, and looked upon as among our ablest jurists.

Should I in these remarks be permitted to speak of him in his private relations, as a brother, a husband and a father, I should boldly say from my long and somewhat intimate acquaintance with his family, that few men ever were as much beloved by those connected to them by the ties of kindred. His happiness seemed identified with theirs.

A few years since, his beloved wife, from failing health, found a change of climate essential to the preservation of her life, so with his wife and eldest daughter, now Mrs. McCreery, he takes a nine months' tour through Europe, visiting the great cities and the various objects of interest in the old world. He visits Paris and Rome and Naples, and Geneva, goes through Switzerland, feasts their eyes with the gorgeous scenery in that land of glaciers and mirror lakes and snow-capped mountains, goes through Germany, visiting its old cities and ruined castles and vine-clad hills, and returns with new life and health for himself and family. His wife whom he loved so well, and over whom he watched with so

much care, always felt that their journey abroad added ten years to her life, affording many delightful remembrances upon review.

On the 9th of November, 1868, Col. Fenton was called to part with his beloved wife, who had for some months been struggling against the inroads of an insidious and fatal disease. He bore his loss with great fortitude, though it was evident to his most intimate friends, that his great sorrow was weighing heavily upon his spirits and that the light which had shone upon his pathway was gone forever.

Mr. Fenton was a worthy and acceptable Mason and has served as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of this State, and his sudden death will be mourned throughout the fraternity; and their presence here to-day is but a faint expression of their loss. When a society or a community are called to part with one like Col. Fenton, it is fit and becoming to mourn, for upon whom shall his mantle fall?

However much we may esteem Col. Fenton as a public officer, however able and faithful he may have been in the discharge of his public duties, yet it was, as we have already intimated, in his own family, and his own home, that his real worth was most apparent. His three sisters who survive him, knew what a true brother he was. Could that faithful wife who a little more than two years since we laid in the grave, now speak, she would repeat those loving words I heard her utter while she was yet with us, concerning him she was proud to call husband. And those sons and daughters know too well his greatness and their loss, in that grief which weighs so heavily upon them. Col. Fenton loved his home and his family as few can; it was his nature. The great heart found there a resting place that he could not find in politics, or in the practice of his profession, or anywhere else in the wide world, and when God called away the mother of his children, his heart tried to find repose in the family of his daughter.

How sudden, how unexpected his death! It is without a parallel that one, at his advanced age and impaired health, should have been chosen to fill an office that required the full bodily strength and vigor of a young man. He was chosen because no other man could or would do as well for the city, and in the discharge of those duties occurred that sad accident which has taken him from us. He fell in attempting to dis-

charge the duties which the people of this city laid upon him. He was self-sacrificing and faithful, and well may we mourn his loss.

Col. Fenton was an advocate of a high toned Christian morality. He was a full believer in the inspiration of the sacred Scriptures and the truth of Christianity, and was an attendant of the Episcopal Church of this city. He knew well the great doctrines of evangelical religion, and believed them true. He often said that his own moral constitution told him that they were true, and he could not be a sceptic. That he had faults as a man, and sins without number before his God, no one knew better than himself. His sister, in the midst of his great distress, asked him "if he could not cast himself upon Him who careth for him." He replied, "That is what I am trying to do;" and then in an audible voice addressed a prayer to his Heavenly Father that He would forgive all his sins. Most men pass into a misty cloud and are lost to view before they reach the misty waters. After a few hours of great bodily suffering, he fell asleep and his spirit ascended to the God who gave it.

It remains to the city, draped in mourning; it remains for the old pioneers, who are so rapidly passing away, and it remains for his family, whose sorrow is so insupportable, without complaint or murmur to submit to the Divine will, and to be also ready, "for in such an hour as we think not the Son of Man cometh."

The address was followed by another hymn:

"Softly, sadly, bear him forth."

The Rev. Father Blades then made one of the eloquent and pathetic prayers, in the delivery of which he so highly excels; after which the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Marcus Lane. Before the remains were taken to the hearse, the battle-scarred colors of the Eighth Regiment were brought in by Fletcher Lewis, one of the surviving veterans of the regiment, and dipped in military salute over the lifeless breast of his old commander—a touching ceremony, that must have stirred to their depths the feelings of the beholders.

The procession, considerably over a mile in length, now moved with the remains in the order of the programme already given, down Beach Street, through Union, up Saginaw,

and by Court Street to Glenwood. At the grave, Rev. Mr. Lane closed the burial service of the Episcopal Church.

Right Eminent Grand Commander Sir J. L. Mitchell, of Jackson, then summoned the Knights Templar to their solemn duty, and assisted by Sir Knight Waite B. Buckingham, Prelate of Genesee Valley Commandery, completed the last offices in the strikingly beautiful and impressive ceremonial rites of the Knight Templar's funeral service. The procession then returned to the city in the same order as before.

Among other distinguished citizens present, were Adjutant General John Robertson, and Col. F. W. Swift, postmaster, Detroit. Also the following officers of the Grand Commandery of Michigan, not already named; E. I. Garfield, Detroit, Grand Captain General; I. M. Smith, East Saginaw, Grand Junior Warden; S. C. Randall, Flint, Grand Standard Bearer; E. M. Stevens, Fenton, Grand Sword Bearer; W. V. Griffith, Detroit, Grand Captain of Guards.

On another page of this book will be found many resolutions from various bodies of Colonel Fenton's associates, embodying the sentiment of the men who understood him best. They say all that need be said of his worth, his noble characteristics, and the calamity we all sustain in his demise. Coming from men of such diverse pursuits and ideas, they cover the whole ground. No additional words of ours could add force to those expressions, and we shall not try to enlarge upon them. Of his personal history we have a faithful sketch in the funeral address by Rev. Mr. Northrop, who knew him so intimately and so long. Though the eloquent voice is silent; the strong arm powerless; the generous heart cold; let us hope that his example may exert an influence as lasting as his virtues shall dwell greenly in our memories.

Resolutions of Citizens' National Bank.

At a meeting of officers and stockholders of the Citizens' National Bank, of which Col. William M. Fenton was president, held on May 15th, 1871, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

A great and good man has been taken away from us by death. In the full strength of his manhood and at the zenith of his intellectual powers, our true friend and safe counselor, the HON. WILLIAM M. FENTON, has been removed to another

world. We shall miss him from our social circle and from our business meetings; we shall miss him everywhere; on the streets, in our offices, at our homes. In view of our great loss, and as a partial tribute to his worth,

Resolved, That we recognized HON. WILLIAM M. FEN-
RON as a leader of pre-eminent ability in all business and social relations; kindly and pleasant in all his intercourse with his fellow men; honest, straightforward, rendering to every man his just dues without distinction; manly, always at his post of duty, doing his duty; and always ready to aid in every proper way by his wisdom, his influence, and his purse, all individuals and all enterprises that commended themselves to his good judgment either as being worthy, or as tending to promote the good of the community in which he lived. He was a courteous gentleman always, and by his many good qualities of mind and heart had endeared himself to us by those ties which render the name of friendship sacred.

Resolved, That, as bank officers, we recognized him as entirely fitted for the position which he occupied as president of our bank. He was a financier of unquestioned soundness, his name was a tower of strength in all financial matters, and through his influence and exertions our bank organization was effected and set in motion in a safe and orderly manner.

Resolved, That we tender to his bereaved family our condolence for the great loss they have sustained by his death, with the assurance that we too mourn his loss, and that while we bow in sorrow and submission to that inscrutable decree of Providence which has removed him from our midst, yet we are consoled by the reflection that the good he had done lives after him and his memory will be cherished in our hearts.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the family of the deceased, and that they be published in the papers of the City.

WM. HAMILTON,
J. W. BEGOLE,
A. MCFARLAN,
J. B. ATWOOD,
HENRY STANLEY,
Directors.

Citizens' Resolutions.

At a meeting of the citizens of Flint, held in Fenton block, on Saturday morning last, to make preliminary arrangements for the funeral of Colonel Fenton—Hon. A. Thayer being in the chair, and LeRoy Parker, Esq., acting as secretary—the following preamble and resolutions were adopted, on the report of a committee appointed to draft the same, consisting of William Newton, Sumner Howard, F. H. Rankin, G. M. Dewey, Jerome Eddy, and Artemas Thayer, viz :

When a valuable member of society, at the summons of the Angel of Death, drops from his place among his fellow citizens, and journeys to "that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns," it becomes fitting and proper for the community who have sustained the loss, to express by suitable resolves, the sentiments and feelings they unitedly entertain.

Such an occasion has arisen among the people of our city, by the sad and sudden removal of our dear friend, HON. WILLIAM M. FENTON, so long, so prominently, and so beneficently identified with our best interests; be it therefore

Resolved, By this Meeting of the Citizens of Flint, That in the death of HON. WILLIAM M. FENTON, taken from us by an untimely accident, in the midst of vigorous work for the public good, and in the enjoyment of unbounded public confidence, we have sustained a loss as wide-reaching as it is irreparable.

Resolved, That we desire to place upon record our appreciation of the services rendered by the deceased to this community, at all times and upon every occasion, when his wealth, his counsel, or his labors, could contribute to the success of a worthy project, be it great or small.

Resolved, That we must long feel keenly the deprivation we have sustained; in the social circles where he was an ornament; in the business enterprises where he was ever foremost; and in the progress of public improvements in our city, where he has left enduring monuments of his desire and his ability to build it up in beauty and permanency.

Resolved, That in the peculiar circumstances which were, under Providence, the immediate cause of his death, we recog-

nize an additional motive for deploring the calamity thus visited upon us, inasmuch as he met his fate through his unselfish anxiety to save the property of ourselves and our families from the devastation of fire; and in the active discharge of a voluntary duty, at once laborious, absorbing, and unremunerated save by the gratitude of those for whose benefit his energies were expended.

Resolved, That in the contemplation of the public misfortune in his loss, we are not forgetful that there are those allied to our departed friend by the closer ties of affinity; and to them, out of our own deep sorrow, we tender our most heartfelt sympathy in their yet greater bereavement.

Resolved, That the secretary of this meeting of citizens be requested to furnish a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased, and that they be published in all the papers of this city.

Resolutions of the Bar.

At a meeting of the members of the bar of this county, held on Saturday, to consider the circumstance of the death of Hon. William M. Fenton, Messrs, E. H. Thompson, William Newton, H. R. Lovell, Oscar Adams, and G. H. Durand, were appointed a committee to draft resolutions expressive of the feeling of the bar, upon the loss they had sustained. At a subsequent meeting, Colonel Thompson, for the committee, reported the following preamble and resolutions which were adopted:

Whereas, Death has taken from our midst the HON. WILLIAM MATTHEW FENTON in the full strength of his manhood and vigor of his intellectual powers; and

Whereas, The many years of tried and useful connection of the deceased with his brethren of the same profession, renders an expression of the estimation in which he was held by them eminently fitting at this time, therefore

Resolved, By the Bar of Genesee County, that we have heard with emotions of profound and sincere regret of the death of our distinguished brother, and that we deplore with unfeigned sorrow this untimely and unexpected bereavement, not only as a public misfortune to the county and State, but

as a peculiar loss to our profession, of which he was so eminent a member.

Resolved, That we who have been spectators and sharers of his professional talents can best give full testimony to the learning and industry which he brought to that profession, rendering and fully realizing the truthfulness of an eminent Lord High Chancellor of England, "that an advocate in the discharge of his duty should know but one person in all the world—and that person should be his client."

Resolved, That as members of the bar, we are deeply affected by feelings to which no resolutions or words can convey adequate expression, and while we *here* but feebly express our sense of the integrity and honor of our deceased brother, we are also saddened by the mournful reflection that our connection with him in this world has ended forever. While living,

"He was ours, and may that word of pride
Drown, with its lofty tone, pain's bitter cry."

Resolved, That as a statesman he was pre-eminently distinguished for his love of justice and liberty, and while serving the State, whether as the presiding officer of the Senate, or as one of its members, he guarded well its interests—protected its good name, and vindicated its just rights regardless of the antecedents of party."

Resolved, That when removed from civil life to the more onerous duties voluntarily and early accepted by him during the period when the life of the Nation was imperilled, he exhibited on the tented field, and at the head of his regiment the self same noble qualities of patriotism, nobleness of mind and greatness of soul, that made him so loved and honored by the Bar, that he might truly say of himself with Terence: "*Homo sum humani nihil a me alienum puto.*"

Resolved, That we most respectfully tender our sincere condolence to his bereaved family and relatives, for their irreparable loss.

Resolved, That as a token of our deep sympathy, and of our respect and regard for our deceased brother, we will attend his funeral in a body, wearing the customary badges of mourning.

Resolved, That the secretary of this meeting send to the family of the deceased a copy of these resolutions, under the seal of the Court, and that they be published in our city papers.

Chapter and Lodge Resolutions.

At a called meeting of Washington Chapter No. 15, R. A. M., Flint Lodge No. 23, F. & A. M., and Genesee Lodge No. 174, F. & A. M., held at Masonic Hall on Monday evening last; a committee was appointed, on whose report the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

Whereas, In the inscrutable but unerring wisdom of the Great "I AM," our very worthy Brother and Past Master, WILLIAM M. FENTON, has been called within the veil, from the midst of his useful labors, by mandate of Death:

Resolved, That in the departure of BROTHER FENTON we have lost one of the most genial, whole-souled, active and efficient members; one who, by his happy combination of the fraternal fidelity, caution, and circumspection of the true Mason, with the sound judgment, energetic enterprise, and enthusiasm of the successful business man, has left a void hardly to be filled.

Resolved, That we tender to his bereaved family our deepest sympathy in their great affliction; commending them to the watchful care of Him whose tender mercies are over all His works.

Resolved, That in the spirit of our venerable and noble institution, which draws its lessons of Wisdom and Morality from every incident and adjunct of life, we should heed the thought suggested by the peculiar circumstance of our Brother's departure, that though "The path to glory leads BUT to the grave," the path of *Duty* may lead *through* the grave to higher duties and a more glorious destiny beyond.

Resolved, That a certified copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the family of our deceased Brother.

D. CLARKE,
JOHN ORRELL,
G. M. BUSHNELL,
Committee.

Commandery Resolutions.

At a regular Conclave of Genesee Valley Commandery No. 15, K. T., at their Asylum, on Tuesday, May 16th, inst., the following resolutions were offered by a committee previously appointed for that purpose, and adopted:

Whereas, SIR WILLIAM M. FENTON, a valiant and magnanimous Sir Knight, in obedience to the mandate of the Supreme Master of the Great Temple of the Universe, has passed from Time to Eternity; and

Whereas, Like many of the true Sir Knights of old, whose history adorns the Chronicles of our illustrious Order, he fell a martyr to his bravery, in the active discharge of the voluntary duty of protecting our homes and firesides from an enemy more ruthless than even the ancient Saracen at the Shrine of the Holy Sepulchre;

Resolved, That in all the relations of our fraternity—whether in acquiring the capacity to work as a Master Mason, producing good work, square work, true work; or, in the Most Excellent great and glorious undertaking of building the Masonic Temple; or, in Knightly panoply, with his good sword guarding it from the assaults of all enemies; the example of SIR WILLIAM M. FENTON is worthy of our admiration and imitation.

Resolved, That in all the qualities of courtly Knighthood, SIR WILLIAM M. FENTON was pre-eminently distinguished; and by his death a vacancy has been made at our Triangle which can never be filled till the final bugle call of the Grand Commander on High shall summon all faithful Soldiers of the Temple to that Heavenly Asylum where the light is never extinguished.

Resolved, That we shall ever cherish in our hearts the remembrance of the virtues of the deceased, as a Mason whose Brotherhood was universal as the canopy of the starry decked heavens; whose Companionship was firm as the Arch when bound by the Keystone; and whose Knighthood was true as the Cross of Steel.

Resolved, That while so sadly feeling our own loss, we are conscious there are those on whom that loss must weigh heavier and sink deeper. To them—his family circle—we

offer our most heartfelt sympathies in their grief and bereavement.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted by the Recorder to the family of the deceased.

F. H. RANKIN,
GEO. H. DURAND,
GEO. L. WALKER,
Committee.

Moved by Sir Knight Durand, that a copy of the above resolutions be furnished each of the city papers for publication. Adopted.

Also, That the charter, jewels, banner and sword hilt of every Sir Knight be draped in morning for thirty days. Adopted.

Fire Department Resolutions.

At a general meeting of the Fire Department, held at the office of Hon. A. Thayer, on Tuesday evening last, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted :

Whereas, The HON. WILLIAM M. FENTON in the instant discharge of his duties as Chief Engineer of the Fire Department has met with an unforeseen accident fatal to life, which he has thus given for this community; and

Whereas, By his death we have lost a Chief who was not only a model officer but the impersonation of all the virtues which belong to the perfect fireman; therefore

Resolved, That we mourn his untimely death with keen anguish; that while acknowledging indeed that a life like his, so full of honorable living, wide-spread usefulness, generous deeds, kindly affections, and considerate care for the comfort of all who made his acquaintance, would in any event close too soon, yet in view of all the department hoped from his counsel, energy and example, we feel his death could not have been to us more inopportune.

Resolved, That we testify our respect for his memory by draping our rooms, engines and apparatus, and wearing the usual badge of mourning for thirty days, and as a further testimony of our regard we will take part in his funeral obsequies in full force.

Resolved, That these resolutions be published in the city papers, and a copy delivered to the family of the deceased, with assurances of our sympathy for them in this their sad affliction.

Fenton Engine Company's Resolutions.

At a meeting of Fenton Engine Company, held for the purpose on Tuesday evening last, at the office of G. M. Walker, Esq., the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That we deeply deplore the death of our peerless president, WILLIAM M. FENTON, in whom the company loses its patron, the members each a comrade friend; that the terrible suddenness of his taking off, while it so vividly tells us "we know not what an hour may bring forth," also overwhelms us with such sense of the calamity it brings, as words cannot utter.

Resolved, That we tender our sympathies to his family and kindred, and with respectful deference to their more sacred grief, beg leave to say we too loved and honored him living, and will ever revere his memory.

Resolved, That we attend the funeral of the deceased and take such part in the obsequies as shall be assigned us under the orders of the acting Chief Engineer of the Fire Department.

Resolved, That the engine room, steamer and trumpets be draped in mourning thirty days, and the members wear the usual badge of sorrow.

Resolved, That the secretary enter these resolutions in the minutes, and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

GRANT DECKER--ELIZABETH STEVENS. Dec. 6th, 1833, at Avon, N. Y. d. April 11th, 1844.		GEORGE STEVENS. b. Dec. 10th, 1839. d. Aug. 30th, 1864, at Andersonville, Ga.		ALICE ELIZABETH. b. Oct. 31st, 1841. m. Albert C. Eddy, Nov. 17th, 1869, at Flint, Mich.		FLORENCE E. b. Nov. 19th, 1870. m. John L. Smith, Feby. 20th, 1896, at Chi- cago, Ill.		GEORGE SHERMAN. b. May 1st, 1874. m. Emma Renick, Sept. 18th, 1900, at Ash- tabula, O.		CLARENCE RENICK. b. Sept. 6th, 1901.		ALICE MARIE. b. Aug. 5th, 1903.					
ISABELLA. b. July 6th, 1847.		GENEVIEVE. m. Henry C. Hascall, Dec. 13th, 1866, at Flint, Mich. b. d. Nov. 13th, 1899, at Gates Tenn.		JULIA ISABELLA FENTON--GRANT DECKER. b. July 26th, 1813, at Nor- wich, N. Y. d. Mch. 1st, 1890, at Flint, Mich.		GRANT DECKER. m. 2nd, Sept. 2nd, 1845, at Fentonville, Mich. b. Feby. 4th, 1814. d. July 30th, 1890.		JULIA FENTON. m. Wm. B. McCreery, Dec. 17th, 1885, at Flint, Mich.		KATHARINE. b. Sept. 30th, 1851. b. Aug. 19th, 1853. m. Edward C. Greene, Nov. 23th, 1892, at Ann Arbor, Mich.							
HENRY GRANT. b. Oct. 22nd, 1867.		GERTRUDE BRUSH. m. Lillie B. Langston, June 23rd, 1891, at Chicago, Ill.		CHESTER HASCALL. b. Nov. 10th, 1869.		DOUGLAS EDWIN. m. Chester H. Bliss, June 24th, 1891, at Flint, Mich.		WALTER BOUNDS. b. June 30th, 1872. d. Sept. 7th, 1873.		GRACE GENEVIEVE. b. June 23rd, 1874. m. William Edwin Stewart May 24th, 1898, at Flint, Mich.		JULIA NANCY. b. Mch. 26th, 1879.		ISABELLA. m. Frank D. Buckingham, Sept. 23rd, 1904, at Flint, Mich.		CHANDLER CARLTON. b. Jan. 30th, 1886. d. May 20th, 1882.	
HENRY ALLEN. b. May 14th, 1892.		NORMAN STUART. b. July 18th, 1896.		WILLIAM FRANCIS. b. Oct. 27th, 1899.		PHILIP HASCALL. b. Dec. 20th, 1900.		GENEVIEVE DECKER. b. Jan. 14th, 1907.		GEORGE WAITE. b. Mch. 28th, 1906.		NANCY ISABELLA. b. July 23rd, 1908.					
JULIA ISABELLA FENTON--RICHARD L. CLARK. m. 1st, Jan. 28th, 1835, at Palmyra, N. Y. d. Jan. 20th, 1842.																	
JOSEPH F. b. Jan. 15th, 1836. d. Oct. 26th, 1836.				LAVINIA F. b. Aug. 4th, 1837. d. Mch. 17th, 1887.				ADA FENTON. b. Sept. 5th, 1866.				WINNIE. m. Thomas P. Sheldon May 20th, 1857, at Flint, Mich.					
ROSE CARLTON. b. June 23th, 1868. d. Feby. 23rd, 1861.				MAUD CLARKE. b. Jan. 19th, 1862. d. Feby. 8th, 1892.				ADA SHERDON. m. Robert A. Norris, June 2nd, 1883.				JAMES FENTON. m. Gertrude A. Stanley, Mch. 20th, 1907.					
ROBERT SHERDON. b. Feby. 17th, 1884. d. Apl. 7th, 1889.				HAZEL DECKER. b. Feby. 5th, 1886.				ADA SHERDON. b. Mch. 3rd, 1887. d. July 6th, 1887.				SHELDON MORRIS. b. Feby. 26th, 1888.					
HAZEL DECKER. b. Feby. 5th, 1886.				ADA SHERDON. b. Mch. 3rd, 1887. d. July 6th, 1887.				JAMES FENTON. b. Feby. 5th, 1889.				MORRIS FENTON. b. Apl. 2nd, 1895.					

CHAPTER XI.

Lavinia Bigelow Fenton.

UNDER the head of "Another Old Settler Gone," a Michigan newspaper published the following: "The announcement of the death of Mrs. Lavinia Bigelow Rockwell, which occurred at Yonkers, N. Y., on the 19th inst. (1887), after a short illness, in the 76th year of her age, will be received with widespread regret in this county, where deceased resided for a number of years and was well known and highly esteemed. Mrs. Rockwell was the wife of the late Benjamin Rockwell, who passed away at Yonkers, February 4th last, and sister of the late Col. William M. Fenton, and of Mrs. Grant Decker.

Mrs. Rockwell was married in New York in 1835 and settled in Fentonville in this county in 1838. In 1840 they came to this city (Flint) where they resided for several years, after which they returned to New York. In 1880 they came to Flint again, but three years later they were compelled on account of ill health to once more return to the Empire State. The early settlers of this city will remember Mr. and Mrs. Rockwell as being foremost in every good work and active in all that pertained to the prosperity of the town; for their Christian virtues and their genial hospitality. They were members of the First Presbyterian Church here under the pastorate of the Rev. Mr. Van West, and always manifested a deep interest in its welfare and prosperity.

Benjamin Rockwell.

"We record in another column the death of Benjamin Rockwell, for twenty years past an honored resident of this city (Yonkers).

Mr. Rockwell came from good old Revolutionary blood, hailing from Lewisboro, Westchester County, New York.

He was born in 1813 in the City of New York, where his father, Dr. Benjamin Rockwell, had moved to practice his profession. His grandfather was Nathan Rockwell of Lewisboro, and a member of the celebrated committee of safety,

for whose head a reward was offered by the Tories of the county. At the close of the War of the Revolution, Nathan Rockwell represented his county in the State Assembly. Benjamin Rockwell was for many years a merchant in the City of New York, but for several years past being much of an invalid, has not engaged in active business.

For a number of years Mr. Rockwell took an active interest in church and public affairs, but of late has had but little to do with outside matters, although until lately insisting upon attending church, and casting his vote upon all important occasions. He celebrated his golden wedding about eighteen months ago and leaves his widow and a son and daughter to mourn his loss.

Julia Fenton Atkins.

[*Yonkers Statesman*, August 31, 1911.]

Mrs. Julia Fenton Atkins, wife of Judge T. Astley Atkins, of this city, died at her home, 90 Locust Hill Avenue, August 30th, 1911, after a long illness.

Mrs. Atkins was born in Flint, Michigan. Her father, Benjamin Rockwell, was a great-grandson of the patriot Nathan Rockwell, of Westchester County, a member of the so-called Committee of Safety, for whose apprehension the British offered large rewards. On her mother's side she was descended from William Fenton, of Rutland, Mass. Mr. Fenton having settled there about the year 1722.

Mrs. Atkins came to Yonkers in 1862, having then been married a couple of years, and, with her husband and one child, settled down to housekeeping in South Broadway. Of a quiet, retiring disposition, she avoided all public notoriety, confining herself to her personal and charitable affairs. Of the latter, few, often her own immediate family, knew but little.

In the early days of the Civil War she had much to do with the great Sanitary Fair held in Yonkers. When Rev. Thomas A. Jaggar, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, mooted the question of a hospital, she was one of the first with whom he consulted, and she, with two other ladies, composed the committee which chose the little house at the southwest corner of Ashburton and Warburton Avenues, and there, with others, helped to manage the affairs of the new hospital.

Throughout her life of nearly 50 years in Yonkers, her unostentatious charities have been a boon to individuals and organized bodies. She could not give to all, nor would she put her name upon subscription lists. Food and clothing were among her earlier gifts, and it was often remarked that there must be some mysterious mark upon her gate post, to have brought the constant applications at her kitchen door for a meal. Gifts of money to such were usually refused, but were always afforded when the applicant's record was made clear.

The beauty of her character was proved by the devotion of her friends. Touching remembrances of flowers and personal letters proved this during her illness of quite a year. Those who knew her best loved her devotedly. Each and all she believed were entitled to their separate opinions, and beliefs, and it fared badly with one who would gossip, criticize, or attempt to repeat scandal, in her presence. Though entitled to be enrolled as a Colonial Dame or Daughter of the American Revolution, she shrank from the publicity of such memberships, and always declined them when offered.

At the request of the Ladies' Westchester Committee, at the time of the Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Mrs. Atkins prepared and presented an historical monograph entitled, "Celebrated Women of Westchester County," being a succinct notice of ten women who have been notable in its history. This brochure lies among the woman's exhibit of that fair, and has never, to our knowledge, been in public print. A copy is in the possession of the family.

Mrs. Atkins had four children, two of whom died in infancy and are buried in old St. John's Cemetery. She is survived by her husband, a son and a daughter.

The First Sarah Frances Fenton.

Mrs. Sanborn writes that "The first Sarah Frances in my mother's family was a very precocious, beautiful, intellectual, marvellous, religious child. She died before my birth and was buried in the Norwich Cemetery. She was never spoken of by my mother except in tears. A treat for Jennie and me was to be shown a little box of trifles that had belonged to the Angel, Sister Frances.

She was about eleven years old when she died and had a long, painful illness, bearing it like a martyr; a little Christian

in her faith, without murmuring, retaining her brilliant beauty to the last. All of the children who were old enough remembered her."

The first Sarah Frances was born at Norwich, N. Y., February 18th, 1810, and died there May 22nd, 1821. The second Sarah Frances (Fenton Sanborn) was born at Norwich, November 4th, 1821, and therefore had no personal recollection of her sister, but received the above information from her parents.

Julia Isabella Fenton.

Julia Isabella Fenton was the daughter of Joseph S. and Sarah T. Fenton and was one of a family of nine children all of whom were born in Norwich, N. Y.

Her early life was spent in her native town, being sent later to boarding school at Pittsfield, Mass. She subsequently moved with her parents to Palmyra, New York, where in 1835 she was married to Richard L. Clark. After residing in New York City for a time they removed to Utica, Michigan, where Mr. Clark died, leaving his widow with one daughter.

Mrs. Clark then removed to Fentonville, Michigan. In 1845 she was married to Grant Decker, of Flint, Michigan, where they resided many years.

Mrs. Decker was by nature singularly refined and gentle and her life was one of unostentatious goodness, having an intuitive faculty of searching out and aiding the really needy.

In social life she represented all that was best and purest. In the home she was a mother in every sense of the word and reigned supreme in the hearts of her husband and children.

During her residence in Flint she was a devoted member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in the good work of which she took an active part.

Her death occurred on March 1st, 1890, preceding that of her husband by five months.

Julia Isabella Decker.

The following is taken from press notices:

"Julia Isabella, wife of Mr. Grant Decker, died on Saturday evening at her home at 707 Clifford Street, after an illness of long duration. She was born at Norwich, New York, and was a daughter of Joseph S. Fenton and a sister of the

late Col. Fenton. When young she was married to Richard L. Clark, who died a few years later at Pontiac, leaving a son, now deceased, and a daughter, Mrs. Thomas Sheldon, who died in Chicago a few years ago. After removal to this city (Flint) she married Mr. Grant Decker. Besides a husband she leaves four daughters, Mrs. H. C. Hascall, Mrs. William B. McCreery and Misses Julia and Kate Decker. Mrs. Decker was for many years a devout member of St. Paul's Church, and while in the enjoyment of good health took an active interest in everything that pertained to the success of that church. Possessed by many good qualities of heart and mind she made friends with all with whom she came in contact and her demise will be sincerely mourned in the community in which she passed so many years of her useful life."

The following obituary notice was published by the Flint Journal:

"Death has again been busy in our city, this time claiming Mrs. Grant Decker. It would be improper to use the usual expressions of regret in noting the death of that venerable lady, as she herself would not have approved of their use, she being willing, nay anxious, to depart, as she believed her life work was done. For over a week believing that her end was near she cheerfully conversed with her children, grandchildren and friends without any appearance of emotion whatever about her departure, as if she were intending to start upon a long and pleasant journey, frequently referring to the joys that were awaiting her in the better land, and several times as she unexpectedly rallied, she expressed regret that her increased strength would delay her departure. For her, therefore, regrets are out of place. The only fear expressed was that her physical suffering before death might be so great that she might not bear the pain with becoming fortitude, but her fears in that direction were groundless, as she so gradually lost her strength that the exact time of her death could not be accurately determined by her daughters, who were lovingly watching by her bedside. In every sense her end was peace. She had lived to a ripe old age, and then relinquished her work, not from the ravage of disease, but because her body was worn out. How appropriate in her case are the words that will shortly be pronounced over her body: 'Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from

henceforth: yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them.' It is not the intention of the writer to give an extended notice of deceased's life, as from her retiring disposition she would not have desired it, and she has been so long a resident of the city that her unobtrusive goodness, kindness and high Christian character are so well known as to render any such notice unnecessary.

"Her long familiar presence in St. Paul's Episcopal Church will be much missed, as while she was not the oldest, she was one of the oldest communicants of that church, and with her husband and daughters, actively supported the church work.

Julia Isabella Fenton, daughter of Joseph S. and Sarah Brush Fenton, was born in Norwich, Chenango County, New York, in 1813, and consequently was in her 77th year. She afterwards moved to Palmyra, N. Y., where in 1835 she married Mr. Richard L. Clark, to whom she bore one daughter, well known as Mrs. T. P. Sheldon. Mr. Clark died at Utica, Michigan, in 1842. In 1845 she married the Hon. Grant Decker, who survives her."

Grant Decker.

Grant Decker was a native of New Jersey, his ancestors locating in the village of Deckertown before the Revolution. There he was born February 4th, 1814. When quite a young man he removed with his parents, Peter and Huldah Decker, to Medina, New York, where he grew to manhood.

In 1838 he was married at Avon, N. Y., to Miss Elizabeth Stevens and in 1839 came to Flint, Michigan, and engaged in the lumbering and mercantile business in which he continued almost to the time of his death.

Mr. Decker's wife died in 1844, leaving him with two children, a son and a daughter. His son, George Stevens Decker, later engaged in the Civil War, enlisting in Company K, Fifth Michigan Cavalry, was taken prisoner in action at Brockland Mills, Va., was sent to Andersonville prison and died there August 30th, 1864.

Mr. Decker's second wife was Mrs. Julia I. Clark, formerly Miss Julia I. Fenton. By this marriage there were four daughters.

In 1855 Mr. Decker was elected first Mayor of the City of Flint. He was one of the founders of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and was always closely associated with the interests of that parish as vestryman and warden.

As a pioneer of Flint and Genesee he was looked up to as a leader in all new enterprises and was ever ready to assist with his sympathy and more material aid those who had to meet the hardships of pioneer life, even nursing the sick in the surrounding country in times of epidemics.

He was a man of noble qualities of mind and heart and in all questions of morality and Christianity he ever threw his influence on the side of right and justice. He was respected and loved by the whole community in which he lived.

Grant Decker died at his home in Flint on the 30th of July, 1890.

Press notice :

As a pioneer of the City of Flint, Mr. Decker is entitled to special mention ; as a business man, he was among the early merchants and lumbermen ; in the church he was one of the founders of St. Paul's Episcopal Church ; upon the organization of the City of Flint, he was chosen its first Mayor.

Mr. Decker was formerly from New Jersey, his ancestors locating in the village of Deckertown before the Revolution. There he was born, February 4, 1814.

In 1824 his father moved to Western New York, where Mr. Decker was reared to manhood. In 1838 he was married to Miss Elizabeth Stevens.

In 1839 he came to Flint, and engaged in the mercantile and lumbering business with two of his brothers-in-law, A. C. and Sherman Stevens. This firm continued a few years when it was dissolved, and Mr. Decker continued in business alone or with other partners. Since that time he, with Artemas Thayer, built a large flouring-mill, which was subsequently destroyed by fire. Mr. Decker has been particularly unfortunate from fires ; eight times has he suffered serious loss by this element, and although the aggregate of his loss has been many thousand dollars, he has always paid one hundred cents on the dollar, and at this time is carrying on an extensive manufacturing business with his son-in-law, H. C. Hascall.

Mr. Decker's first wife died in 1844. He was again married, to Mrs. Julia I. Clark, formerly Miss Julia I. Fen-

ton. He has reared a family of six children—five daughters and one son. The son enlisted in the Fifth Michigan Cavalry and served in the War of the Rebellion; was taken prisoner at Gettysburg, and died in Andersonville prison.

On all questions of morality or Christianity, Mr. Decker has ever thrown his influence upon the side of right and justice. He was vestryman of St. Paul's Church, of Flint, more than thirty years, and has served for many years and to the present time as senior warden of that organization.

Sarah Frances Fenton, Second.

All that Mrs. Sanborn has written concerning her sister, the first Sarah Frances, applies with double force to herself. All these graces, all these accomplishments she has possessed with many additions thereto. As head of the now numerous family, Fenton, she is our most worshipful kinswoman, revered, beloved and trusted throughout the whole long years of her most remarkable life.

The youngest children of Joseph S. Fenton, two daughters, Sarah Frances, 2nd, and Jennie, developed the same love for study and learning. In fact "they lisped in numbers" and never needed urging in devotion to books. The Fenton house was full of books. Novels were tabooed. They fed on strong diet. Their mother's love for English poetry and literature as she sang, talked and recited to them, stimulated them. Elder sisters petted and encouraged their little recitations and the minister delighted in their precocity. At between three and four years of age they could handle their New Testaments, turning to the chapters they loved and reading aloud.

Their brother Joseph's vacations from college were a treat at a later age, always quoting his learned talk with them and getting into the big library with him to read Shakespeare and Milton. There were books all over the house.

Sarah Frances attended a private school from the time she was three to the age of fourteen years. During vacations they played, but they read too. Committing to memory came easily to her. Her brother Henry, next older, was a stimulus to her ambition, with his keen wit and sensitiveness to right reading and study. His father called him his "encyclopaedia," so accurate and quick was he on any subject.

Sarah Frances studied foreign languages when very young. Her grammars were Latin, French, and Spanish at times in a private school, at others in a large academy where her recitations gave her the head of the class, but she seems to have puzzled over high mathematics, preferring languages to figures. Later in life she became particularly fond of Italian, making a study of the Immortal Poem and writing *con amore* of her beloved Dante. Her boarding school days were spent at seminaries for young ladies in Rochester and Utica, New York State.

At home the family always occupied a prominent position in society and their influence and example was strongly felt morals, temperance and religion. The family in early days occupied one of the square pews of the old Presbyterian Church on the "Square."

The subject of this sketch followed the fortunes of the family at Palmyra, New York, and at Michigan, and at the age of twenty-five married Joseph Brooks Clark, son of the Honorable Lot Clark, M. C. Mr. Clark during his short life of manhood devoted himself to the sole business of looking after his father's large interests in Western lands. He died at the early age of thirty-four years. Their son, Lot Curran Clark, was born in Detroit, where his parents were then located, in 1854. Mrs. Clark accompanied her son to Andover, Mass., placing him at Phillips Academy, and remained with him until 1869. His degrees were A. B., A. M. and L. L. B.

In the year 1869 Mrs. Clark married Edwin David Sanborn, LL. D., who was Professor of the Ancient Classics, Belle's Lettres and Anglo-Saxon at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire.

Professor Sanborn was a ripe scholar, an enthusiast in the love of study, possessing a wonderful power of imparting enthusiasm to his pupils.

At her second marriage she took up her residence with the Professor at Dartmouth. At the decease of Mr. Sanborn in 1885, Mrs. Sanborn removed to San Francisco, California, to reside with her son, Curran. Mrs. Sanborn has furnished the world through magazines and reviews much prose and poetry and written a book entitled "Dante and His Beloved Florence."

To My Mother.

ON HER 90TH BIRTHDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH, 1911.

In childhood's plays—oh, happy days!—

I ne'er knew any other

Who helped me with her winning ways,

My truest playmate, mother!

The years have come, the years have gone,

With trouble and with pleasure,

But through them all, there yet is one,

To all a living treasure.

Her natal day, full ninety times,

We celebrate with mirth,

And when the cycle she completes—

All hail, that day of birth!

L. CURRAN CLARK.

Hillview, November 4, 1911.

Samuel and Jennie Lewis.

Delightful and sacred memories linger of Mr. Lewis and his lovely wife. Their children and relatives do them homage to this day. United by common tastes this man and wife lived among friends and neighbors a golden existence, and, when called to a better and more lasting life, they were revered and not forgotten by those who survived them.

A relative writes of them that their sunny lives brought happiness to themselves and also to the delightful society in whose world they moved.

It was a custom in those days for each family to have their boats upon the river, and, as Mr. Lewis had his, it is told of him and his wife, that it was their custom, in the long twilight of the summer, to row upon the river, their evening song keeping time with the measured stroke of their oars. Their life was one sweet dream; gentle, cultured, elegant, but simple, in daily walks of life, fond of music and poetry; so they journeyed through life.

Of Mrs. Lewis the same relative says that her moral influence over her little family was supreme. From others it is learned that her gentle loveliness commanded love and esteem of and from all with whom she came in personal contact.

The Lewis family traces its name from Villier D. St. Louis. Louis Villier, born 1666, was the son of Jean and Marguerite Gatineau, of Toule, Lorraine, France.

Louis Villier first appears circa 1745 in Quebec and Detroit, in which latter city he married, April 26th, 1746, Marguerite Moran Drouet. Early in the nineteenth century the name appears as Lewis.

Samuel Lewis was the son of Thomas Lewis and Jeanette Franchesville de Marentette and was born —, 1815, and died November 19, 1878, at New York City.

June 21st, 1849, at the City of Brooklyn, N. Y., he married Jane (Jennie) Fenton, daughter of Joseph S. Fenton.

Mr. Lewis inherited a good name but no fortune. In early life he was compelled to earn his own bread and at a mature age, when he married Miss Fenton, his success in business had brought him relief from the cares and anxieties of a commercial life.

The old French society of Detroit in which Mr. Lewis was brought up was select and refined.

At the decease of Samuel Lewis there was much and sincere lamentation at the loss of such a citizen. One of the many press notices which we quote is in part as follows:

"Detroit was his home and here were gathered the fruits of his useful life, where also were centered the joys that made up the sum of his truest and highest happiness. In disposition he was the embodiment of frankness and personal honor. His simple word would have been received in any court as implicitly as his oath. Few men of Detroit could have died and left behind them more sincere mourners than Samuel Lewis."

CHAPTER XII.

Colonel William B. McCreery.

COLONEL WILLIAM B. McCREERY was born at Mount Morris, New York, August 27th, 1836, and made his home in Flint, Michigan, where he has resided since 1839. He was admitted to the Bar of Genesee County, Michigan, in the year 1859, and practiced law until the breaking out of the war, in 1861. He served throughout the war with distinction, entering the service as a member of Company F, Second Michigan Infantry, returning as Colonel of the Twenty-first Michigan Infantry regiment, to which rank he was promoted in regular order for valor on the field of battle.

He was seriously wounded at Williamsburg, Virginia, May 5th, 1862, and again at Chickamauga, Tennessee, September 20th, 1863. He was taken prisoner at the latter place and, after a trying period of imprisonment, escaped from Libby Prison, February 10th, 1864. The wounds which he had received and the privations which he had suffered necessitated his retirement in the autumn of 1864.

On his return from the front Colonel McCreery associated himself in the general merchandise business with Mr. F. W. Judd. He subsequently engaged in the lumber business and conducted a saw-mill on the bank of the river just south of the Saginaw Street bridge.

Colonel McCreery was appointed Collector of Internal Revenue for his district by President Grant, and in 1875 was elected Treasurer of the State of Michigan, which position he occupied for four years. He also served the State as a member of the State Board of Agriculture for seven years, and for several years he represented the United States as Consul General at Valparaiso, Chili, to which post he was appointed under the Harrison administration. He was a public-spirited citizen and identified with a number of enterprises tending to the advancement of the interests of the city. He was largely interested in the construction of the extension of the Grand Trunk Railway from Flint to Lansing, and was one of the

original stockholders and at one time President of the Flint City Water Works Company. He was Mayor of the city for two terms, being elected to the office the first time in 1865. He was President of the Libby Prison Association and of the Twenty-first Michigan Infantry Association at the time of his death. During the past few years his business interests centered largely in the Big Four mines at Leadville, Colorado, and he was one of the officers of the company controlling that enterprise. He was a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and for a number of years served on its Board of Vestrymen. He was also a member of the G. A. R., the Loyal Legion and of several fraternal societies. He was a man of genial disposition, a good citizen and brave soldier, and in his death the City of Flint sustains a distinct loss that will be universally felt and regretted.

We copy from various newspapers the details of Colonel McCreery's funeral and tributes offered his memory by the press, space compelling the omission of many flattering notices:

WITH BEFITTING HONORS—REMAINS OF COLONEL MCCREERY
LAID TO REST—BEAUTIFUL FLORAL TRIBUTES—A LARGE
GATHERING OF CITIZENS PAY RESPECT TO THE MEMORY
OF THE DEPARTED SOLDIER-CITIZEN.

The remains of the late Colonel William B. McCreery were consigned to the tomb this afternoon with honors befitting the memory of one who was a brave soldier and a universally respected citizen. The funeral services were held at the family residence on Beach Street at 2 o'clock and attracted a gathering of people that tested the capacity of the house beyond its limit. The members of the Common Council were present in a body and other organizations with which the deceased had been identified during his active and useful career as a citizen were also in attendance. Comrades of Gov. Crapo Post to the number of fifty-three paid a last tribute of respect to the memory of their departed comrade and took a final look upon the countenance of one whose loss comes to them as a personal bereavement. The casket containing the remains stood at the west end of the parlor and its sombre covering was almost completely hidden from view by a wealth of beautiful flowers from friends at home and abroad that silently bore testimony to the respect and esteem in which the

deceased was held. About the casket were also placed a number of floral tributes in beautiful designs. The services were conducted by Rev. R. E. Macduff, of St. Paul's Church, and in connection therewith Mr. John and Miss Clara Cornwall sang "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" and "He Watches Over Us." The active pallbearers were Messrs. C. S. Brown, F. H. Pierce, C. M. Begole, A. G. Bishop, F. D. Clarke and C. T. Bridgman, and the honorary bearers were Messrs. George W. Buckingham, G. R. Gold, J. C. Willson, W. R. Morse, H. D. Nye, William Hamilton, William Newton, H. C. Spencer, E. L. Bangs, E. F. Swan, A. L. Aldrich, Oren Stone, George E. Newall and George E. Taylor. The interment was at Glenwood Cemetery and the remains were followed to their last resting place by a lengthy cortege. During the hour of the funeral the banks were closed and the blinds of a number of the business houses were drawn.

Among those from out of the city in attendance on the funeral were Dr. R. C. Kedzie, of the Agricultural College, Lansing; Judge Charles D. Long, of Lansing, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Bench; L. Z. Farwell, of Freeport, Ill. There were also in attendance six members of Colonel McCreery's old command, the Twenty-first Michigan Infantry regiment, from Grand Rapids, viz.: Captain C. E. Belknap, L. L. Church, C. F. Sears, S. W. Lyon, Eber Rice and Peter Steketee. These old veterans were among the most sincere mourners around the bier of their old commander and were keenly sensible of the loss they had sustained in his death. "We feel," said Captain Belknap to a reporter, "that we have lost a very dear friend—yes, even more than that, for I only speak the sentiments of my comrades of the Twenty-first when I say that there isn't a boy among them but that loved Colonel McCreery as they would their own father."—*Flint Daily News*, December 11, 1896.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE COLONEL MCCREERY BY A DETROIT PAPER.

Free Press:—The death of Colonel W. B. McCreery, of Flint, takes from the scene of human activities one of Michigan's well known citizens who had served his country, State, and City in different capacities. His residence in Michigan dated back to 1839, and his life therefore all but measured the career of the commonwealth. He left his law practice in

1861 to go to the front with the Twenty-first Michigan Infantry, and he returned from the war with the rank of Colonel. At the time of his death he was President of the Reunion Association of his regiment. He was Chairman of the Flint Water Board, and owned mining interests in Colorado. In his three score years he had a varied experience and received many honors and preferments at the hands of his fellow citizens.—*Flint Evening Journal*.

[*Flint Daily News*, December 17, 1896.]

RESOLUTIONS OF RESPECT.

The following preamble and resolutions were adopted at the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Flint City Water Works Company last evening:

Whereas, It has pleased the Divine Ruler to remove from among us our late President and associate, Colonel William B. McCreery;

Resolved, That we, the members and directors of the Flint City Water Works Company, deeply deplore the loss of so valuable a member and genial associate;

Resolved, That in the death of Colonel McCreery this City and State loses a brave soldier and an upright and conscientious citizen;

Resolved, That this company extend to the bereaved family their heartfelt sympathy in this hour of their bereavement.

C. S. BROWN,
C. M. BEGOLE,
FRED. J. CATLIN,
Committee.

[*Flint Daily News*, December 21, 1896.]

MEMORY OF A BRAVE SOLDIER FITTINGLY HONORED BY HIS COMRADES OF GOV. CRAPO POST, G. A. R.

The following preamble and resolutions have been adopted by Gov. Crapo Post, No. 145, G. A. R.:

Once more the grim messenger has entered our camp and taken from our ranks our beloved comrade, William B. McCreery, to the spirit land to join the innumerable multitude

gone before. From the cradle to the grave his life was an active one, full of honorable and noble works. Born in the State of New York, August, 1836, he came to Michigan with his parents and had called this his home ever since 1839. He chose the law profession and was admitted to the Bar in the year 1859. When the war began he enlisted in the Second Regiment of Michigan Infantry as Sergeant and came out Colonel of the Twenty-first Michigan Infantry. He was severely wounded at Williamsburg, Virginia, May, 1862; afterwards transferred to the Twenty-first Michigan Infantry as Lieutenant-Colonel, and commissioned Colonel February, 1863; was engaged in the memorable Battle of Chickamauga, September 20 of the same year, and wounded and taken prisoner. He, with a few others, escaped from Libby Prison by tunneling under the prison walls February, 1864, and made good their escape and joined the Union forces in safety. He resigned September, 1864, by reason of wounds which rendered him unfit for active services. Major-General Thomas, in accepting his resignation paid him a compliment in the following words: "On account of wounds (six in number) received at various times in action while in discharge of duty, the honorable scars of which he now bears." In accepting the resignation of Colonel William B. McCreery the Major-General commanding takes occasion to express his "high appreciation of the soldiery qualities and faithful discharge of duty which have ever characterized his action, at the same time regretting the existence of the disability which compels the withdrawal of so valuable an officer from service."

Returning home to civil life, among the many responsible positions he was called upon to fill are the following: He was twice elected Mayor of this city; was Collector of Internal Revenue under President Grant; twice elected State Treasurer; was a member of the Board of Agriculture seven years; United States Consul to Valparaiso, Chile, under President Harrison; and at the time of his death was President of the association of the survivors of his old regiment, Twenty-first Michigan Infantry. His sudden and unexpected death caused a thrill of sorrow throughout the city, State and Nation by reason of his public life, so favorably and honorably acknowledged, which has gone into our State and National history to be read and honored by generations yet to come; therefore,

Resolved, That by the death of our late comrade, William B. McCreery, this Post realize the loss of an honored member, the State and nation a good citizen and loyal defender, and the bereaved family a loving husband and father.

Resolved, That the foregoing preamble and resolutions be spread upon the records of this Post and a copy sent to the bereaved family.

EDWARD C. MARSH,
JAMES H. FAILING,
JOHN ALGOE,
Committee.

*"Should auld acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to mind?"*

WILLIAM B. MCCREERY.

Born at Mt. Morris, New York, 1836.

Died at Flint, Michigan, December 9, 1896.

Entered the service of the United States, May 25th, 1861, as Sergeant, Company F, Second Michigan Infantry, participating, with his command, in the engagements at Blackburns' Ford, July 18th, '61; siege of Yorktown, April 4th to May 4th, '62; Williamsburg, Virginia, May 5th, '62; Fair Oaks, May 31st and June 1st, '62; near Richmond, June 18th, '62; Glendale, June 30th; Malvern Hill, July 1st, '62; second Bull Run, August 28th-29th-30th, '62; Chantilly, September 1st, '62.

At the Battle of Williamsburg, Virginia, received three serious wounds, was promoted to rank of Captain to date September 10th, 1861. November 20th, 1862, promoted to rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and transferred to the Twenty-first Michigan Infantry on duty with the Army of the Cumberland, near Nashville, Tennessee. Soon after being assigned the command of the regiment, and as such engaged in the campaign and Battle of Stone River, December 26th, '62, to January 3rd, '63. In the winter and spring months of '63 engaged in various marches and light engagements; Colonel February 3rd, 1863, Tullahoma campaign June 24th to August 16th, '63, Chickamauga campaign August 16th to September 20th, '63, on which date was seriously wounded and captured

by the enemy. The Colonel thus relates his "experience as a prisoner of war and escape from Libby Prison:"

It was my great privilege as an officer with the Twenty-first Michigan Infantry to follow for a time the varying fortunes of the Army of the Cumberland. During that period we wielded a more potent weapon than the pen—a musket and a sword. Had I wielded a pen, I could have written my heart out in admiration and love for the fortitude and valor of those loyal soldiers of ours, splendid in doing and grand in suffering.

The struggle at Chickamauga has gone down into history as one of the bloodiest battles of the war, and now that the quiet days have come, men make pilgrimages and women smile again among the mountains of the Cumberland, where this great battle was fought, but they need no guide or protector. Rust has eaten the gun, the graves of the heroes have subsided like waves weary of their troubling. The soldier and his leader have lain down together, but there, embossed upon the globe, Chickamauga, the "River of Death," will continue to flow on, murmuring a quiet requiem to the memory of the heroes who struggled and died there, that the cause for which they fought might live forever, and that "the government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

It is not my purpose—indeed, it would be impossible for me—to describe this great battle where I was taken prisoner, but rather to narrate in a plain and simple manner some of my personal experiences while a prisoner of war.

About five o'clock on that memorable Sunday afternoon, September 20th, 1863, recovering consciousness, I found myself within the rebel lines, three times wounded and unable to move, my dead, dying and wounded comrades lying thick around me. The rebel battalions passing over me in splendid battle array were pressing our retiring forces. A throng of rebel stragglers soon began to make their way to the front. Calling to one of them, I asked, "Will you not give me a drink of water from your canteen? I am very thirsty." He approached me, and I feared at first I had called upon the wrong man, as he seemed wonderfully elated at what he deemed the beginning of the grand march of the Confederate Army to Nashville. He finally gave me a drink of water and asked if I had a jack-knife I would give him. Thinking that

I should not feel the need of one, at least for some time to come, I told him to put his hand in my pocket and if he could find one, he was welcome to it. He found the knife, and from that moment he was my friend.

Fearing that I was seriously wounded, I asked him to see if he could find a surgeon. He left me and soon returned, bringing with him a rebel chaplain and a stretcher upon which they placed me and carried me some half mile to the rear, where the wounded of both armies were being collected. The chaplain was very kind and after a little time, with some assistance, placed me upon his horse, taking me almost two miles farther to the rear to a place he designated as their hospital headquarters, which proved to be nothing more nor less than an apple orchard containing some eight or ten acres.

I was deposited under an apple tree on the bare ground, with no covering, and told to make myself as comfortable as possible, and after receiving what I supposed to be good rebel advice from the chaplain, and a hearty "God bless you" from my newly-made rebel soldier friend, I was left to my own thoughts.

It was now after dark, and I began to feel as though something real good to eat would not be objectionable. A wounded Union soldier soon came to me, whom I asked to get me water and something to eat. He left me for that purpose, soon returning with water—I thought the best I had ever drank—and two ears of corn, saying he was very sorry, but he could find nothing else to eat.

Seven or eight hundred wounded Union soldiers at this place alone, with nothing to eat but corn in the ear, God's blue sky for covering, a stone for a pillow, and Mother Earth for a bed.

My soldier friend kindled a good fire at my feet, roasted the two ears of corn from which I made my supper, and I soon fell into a sound slumber. I did not awaken until daylight the next morning, when I found sitting at my side one of my own regiment, James Mead, of Company F, who had been slightly wounded the day previous. "A friend in need is a friend indeed." Mead had already built a fire at my feet and was making a cup of coffee from the last he had in his haversack, which, with a little hard bread from the same source, made us a good breakfast. He proved to be a most excellent provider. I don't think he would steal, even from a rebel, but

he had what the old soldiers used to call a "terrible long reach," which proved to be of great benefit to me personally.

Breakfast over, I began to look around me. Near by, the surgeons had improvised an operating table, with a barn door for a bed. They lay aside their sashes and tinselled coats, roll up their sleeves, spread wide open the cases filled with the terrible glitter of silver steel, and make ready for the work.

The boys begin to come in from the battlefield, where they had lain all the night before, slowly at first, one boy nursing a shattered arm, another borne by his comrades, a whole load in an ambulance, another on a stretcher, then faster and faster, lying here, lying there, each waiting his terrible turn.

The silver steel grows cloudy and lurid, the knives are busy, the saws play—it is bloody work.

I see pale faces, bloody garments. True right arms that offended by reason of their loyalty to the old flag are lopped like slips of golden willow. Feet that never turned from the foe, for ever more without an owner, strew the ground.

I did not hear a moan—the very silence oppresses me—no sound save the gnawing of those terrible saws. It seemed as if an accent of pain from some weary sufferer would be a welcome sound, and I think of a brave bird, wounded unto death, that I have held in my hand, its keen eye undimmed and fall upon me, throbbing with the pain and the dying, and yet so silent.

I retained my headquarters under the apple tree several days, Mead and myself alternately in command, when we were loaded into an army wagon with two wounded officers and taken to Dalton, some twelve miles distant, where about four hundred of the Federal prisoners of war were loaded into cattle cars, and the train pulled out for Richmond.

Arriving at Atlanta, we were taken to the prison pen and kept for two days awaiting transportation, when we were again loaded like sheep into cattle cars and shipped to Augusta, where we remained one day. At this place we were not permitted to leave the cars, but were guarded by the citizen soldiery of Augusta, men of sixty years of age and upwards. The young men were all at the front with the Confederate Army.

By this time my wounds had become feverish and painful, and learning that the Sisters of Charity had established a hos-

pital in a church near by, I obtained permission from the Lieutenant in charge to be taken to the hospital, under guard, and have my wounds cared for. I shall never forget the kindness with which I was received, and the tenderness and care with which my wounds were dressed by these Sisters of Charity. It was the only ray of sunshine that broke through the sombre clouds during all my journey from the battlefield to Richmond. May Heaven bless the Sisters of Charity.

Comrades, how many noble women, both North and South, have threaded like a sunbeam the heavy cloud of war! Women of this nineteenth century, the peers of Rachel and Ruth, and Florence Nightingale. Some one has truthfully said no better epitaph could be placed upon their tombstone than this: "Each soldier's sister and each sufferer's friend." When the scenes, amid which we labor and wait, shall have passed into grand eternity of the historic page, the heart of the world will warm to these women of the now re-united States. The womanly deeds of kindness and the deeds of soldierly daring, both North and South, will be blended forever.

We continued our journey, traveling on a free pass furnished by the Confederacy (good only on cattle cars) to Richmond, via Raleigh, North Carolina. Arriving at Richmond, those of us who were so severely wounded as to be unable to walk from the depot, were loaded on drays and taken to that prison-house of torture and slow death, familiarly known as the "Libby Prison."

On our arrival at the prison our names, rank, regiment, company and place of capture were duly recorded by the clerk, Sergeant Ross, and each one was then searched for money or valuables, and if either was found they were taken by the rebel authorities. The private soldiers were then taken to Belle Isle, and the officers and those slightly wounded were placed in the prison proper, and the remainder were admitted to the hospital.

The hospital at that time was overcrowded, and I was sent to the Pemberton building near by, an adjunct of Libby, where I was assigned a cot, and very soon received medical attention. It was a paradise to what we had experienced, and personally I felt very comfortable.

Upon inquiry I found that each officer was allowed to write two letters every week to friends at home, to contain not more than six lines each. These letters were unsealed and

all were examined by the prison authorities, and if found to contain nothing more than a statement of the condition of the prisoner's health, were sent twice each week by the truce boat to City Point, and delivered to the Federal authorities, but any complaint in regard to harsh treatment, made by the writer, consigned the letters to the waste basket. Letters were also received from our truce boat, addressed to the prisoners of war, opened, examined, and delivered in case they contained no abuse of the Confederacy.

A poor, weary sufferer, a Lieutenant in a Kansas regiment, occupied the cot next to mine. He had been very severely wounded, and a few days before my arrival had suffered the amputation of both feet just above the ankle. He was patient, cheerful, very intelligent, and hopeful that he would recover, but it was apparent to me that he was failing every hour. He talked to me much of his widowed mother, and wondered why he did not hear from her.

One morning I noticed in him a marked change, and on the daily round of the surgeon I asked him if he did not think the Lieutenant rapidly failing. He replied, "Yes, he will soon be gone." I said to him, "Lieutenant, you do not seem quite as strong this morning as you did yesterday." "Oh, yes," he replied, "I feel pretty well, but I do so wish I could hear from my mother." I said to him, "Lieutenant, we may neither of us live to see mother or home again. But in case I should survive you and live to return, is there any message you would like to send to your mother?"

He remained silent a moment, then replied in a feeble voice, "Yes! Tell her—tell her, I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord." These were his last words, and his spirit had soon gone to dwell with the All-Father, in whom he had so freely trusted. Until then, I never knew the meaning of the words, "Where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest." Until then, I never felt the wealth of the assurance, "He giveth his beloved sleep." He knew it not, but his mother was already awaiting his arrival on the shining shore. The surgeon afterward informed me that a letter addressed to the Lieutenant had been received, announcing the death of his mother, but, in consequence of his feeble condition, it had not been delivered to him.

But our prison experiences were not all of a gloomy or

mournful character. I remember an incident which illustrates what a loyal, liberty-loving, family-worshipping soldier can do in an emergency.

Among the inmates of this hospital was Major Halstead, of a New Jersey regiment. Before the war he was a tailor doing business in the City of New York. He visited my cot frequently and I became well acquainted with him. One day he became very confidential and informed me that he was to start for home the next night. I inquired if he had been exchanged. He replied: "Yes, I have my papers. It is a special exchange and I will tell you confidentially all about it. The surgeon and I are great friends. There is nothing I would not do for him. But for his kindness I should be in the prison. I am entirely well and really have no business in the hospital, but he has taken a fancy to me and allows me to remain here. Indeed, he has been very kind to me and I feel very grateful to him for all he has done for me, but, under the circumstances, how can I repay him? I have thought of it for a long time, and said to him a few days ago, 'Doctor I have been trying to think of something I could do for you, to express even in a slight degree, the gratitude I feel for all the kindness you have shown me. With my present surroundings there is only one thing I can do. I am a first-class tailor and can cut, fit and make as good a suit of clothes as any man living. If you will bring me a good piece of Confederate grey cloth for a full suit—coat, vest and pants—with whatever trimmings you may select, I will gladly take your measure and cut, fit and make the suit with my own hands. He finally accepted my kind offer, brought me a piece of fine Confederate grey cloth, together with the trimmings, shoulder straps, etc. I took his measure and have made the finest Confederate major's uniform you ever saw, *to fit my own dear self*. It is already completed, and I start for home tomorrow night to see my wife and babies.'

"The next evening he visited my cot, bade me good bye, donned the grey, and passed the sentinel in safety. A few days afterward I received a letter postmarked New York, containing this suggestive announcement: "The tailor is himself again."

The next morning at roll call the major was missing, and the surgeon was mourning the loss of his new uniform and cursing the "d—d Yankees." In consequence of his having

been frequently seen at my cot in familiar conversation, I was suspected by the surgeon of having something to do with the disappearance of his goods and chattels, and informed that I would be removed to the hospital at the Libby Prison. I remonstrated with the surgeon, but all to no purpose—to the Libby I was taken under guard.

"Libby Prison" proper was used before the war as a tobacco warehouse. It is a massive brick building, fronting on Cary Street, say one hundred and forty feet front by one hundred feet in depth. The front is three stories high, and separated on the first floor into three warehouses, underneath which was a basement. The rear is four stories high, fronting on the canal dock, the canal being on the bank of the James River.

The prison was surrounded on all sides by streets upon which, at intervals of about thirty feet, paced armed sentinels day and night. The first room on the east was devoted to the hospital, the next or middle room was used by the prisoners as a cook room, while the room on the west was used as an office by those in charge of the prison.

In the hospital were four rows of cots, extending the entire length of the room, and at this time they were nearly all occupied by our sick or wounded officers. In one corner of the room a partition had been built, enclosing a small space where the medicines and hospital stores were kept. Underneath was the basement, divided into two rooms, the one fronting on the canal being used as a cook room for the hospital, to which all the inmates had access. The other room, fronting on Cary Street and used as a storeroom, was the one from which the tunnel was dug.

We were tolerably well provided for in this hospital, and at this late day, it is at least charitable to say that they gave us all the attention that it was possible for the Confederacy to furnish.

At this time an arrangement had been made by our government, with the Confederate authorities, by which the United States Christian Commission and friends at the north were permitted to send boxes of food and clothing to our prisoners of war. The boxes were opened by the prison authorities, and, if found to contain nothing contraband of war, were for a time delivered to the parties to whom they were addressed. The contents of the boxes sent by the Christian Commission were divided among those receiving no boxes from home, and

the sick and wounded in the hospital, but unfortunately, the delivery of these boxes was soon discontinued, and we were placed on very low diet.

My wounds were healing rapidly, and I soon began to long for liberty. Near me Captain Skelton from Iowa, and Lieutenant Williams from Indiana, occupied cots. They had been for a long time in confinement, and seemed to think of very little else than making their escape. From morning until night, and almost from night to morning, they were busy with some new scheme.

They came to me one day and said, "If you can raise sixty dollars in greenbacks, we three can purchase our liberty by bribing the guard." They had no money, but had been for some time cultivating the acquaintance of the sentinel at the hospital kitchen window, and thought they could trust him. I was invited to join them in an interview with the sentinel. I found him a bright fellow and evidently not in hearty accord with the Confederacy. Negotiations were made and concluded on the basis of liberty for three, price twenty dollars each in greenbacks.

When captured, I had with me three hundred dollars in twenty dollar treasury notes, which while under the apple tree near the battlefield, I had taken the precaution to have Mead sew into the waistband of my drawers, and at the time I was searched on my arrival at Libby they had escaped seizure, so that I was in funds. I told my comrades that I could furnish them the money, but feared I was not strong enough to endure the exposure of a seventy miles tramp to Williamsburg.

They waited several days for me to gain sufficient strength to undertake the journey, but I finally told them I would not make the venture, but that they could draw on my bank for the necessary funds to enable them to start for God's country, and that very night I gave the sentinel two twenty dollar greenbacks, bade the boys God-speed, and saw them safely pass the guard. Subsequently I met Skelton in Washington. On his arrival there he was discharged from the service in consequence of injuries received at the time of his capture, and at the personal request of President Lincoln he had been given a clerkship in the Treasury Department. Lieutenant Williams immediately joined his regiment at the front.

The next thing was to see that the authorities did not

discover their absence until they were safely on their journey. Every morning the clerk of the prison, Sergeant Ross, came into the hospital and requested each of the inmates to occupy their respective cots while he called the roll. This he did by passing along the aisle between the cots and counting those first on his right hand, and, in returning, those on the opposite side. I had arranged with one of the boys to aid me in keeping the count good. As soon as Ross had passed my cot and I had been counted, I quickly crossed the aisle while his back was turned and stretched myself at full length upon one of the unoccupied cots, so that I was again counted on his return. My associate in this fearful crime pursued the same course, and thus for four days the count was found to be correct.

On the fifth day Ross discovered me and suspected something wrong. The roll was then called by name and Skelton and Williams found to be absent without leave. Having been detected in my endeavor to shield them, I was charged with aiding them to make their escape and was very soon sent for to report to the office to be interrogated by Captain Turner, the commandant of the prison, as to what I knew about it.

I have never been vain enough to suppose that I knew a great deal, but upon that occasion I positively knew less than at any other time in my whole life. Captain Turner became very angry with me, but I tried to keep cool and succeeded for a time, but under continued and terrible abuse my temper finally gave way.

I said to him: "Captain Turner, I am a Union soldier, but by the fortunes of war your prisoner. I am entitled to your protection and not to your abuse. I have committed no crime, I have violated no law, and I have no apologies nor explanations to make either to you or to your pretended government, and I ask no favors other than those granted to my comrades. You ask me to tell you how Skelton and Williams made their escape and where they now are. I have only this to say: The roll call seems to disclose the fact that they are not here, and while I do not claim to be able to point out to you the exact spot where you will find them, I believe they are now safe under the protecting folds of the Star Spangled Banner, and if I ever have an opportunity to join them I shall most certainly do so without calling at your office and notifying you of my intention."

The Captain was disgusted and very angry. Calling the sentinel, he said: "This man needs cooling off! Give him exercise! Set him to walking a crack, and if he don't walk right lively, give him the bayonet," and without further ceremony I was conducted into the hall and told to walk a crack in the floor. I walked; and as I walked I was reminded of the truth of the saying, "Discretion is the better part of valor."

If you have a good thing to say (and it may be the whole truth) wait awhile—it will keep under certain circumstances.

I continued my walk about two hours, and on the return of Captain Turner from dinner he passed near me. Calling to him, I said, "Captain don't you think I have had about enough exercise for one day? You know I did not eat a very hearty breakfast." He deigned to smile, and replied, "Yes, sentinel, take him upstairs." I did not fancy the idea of going into the prison, and said, "Captain, I belong in the hospital." "You have been there too long already," he replied. "But I would like to get my things." "What things have you in the hospital?" he said. I could think of nothing, as everything I had in the world was on my back. I finally stammered out, "My night shirt." "Night shirt be d—d!" he said, and disappeared.

Arriving on the inside of the prison I found many old friends and acquaintances, and was invited to mess with Colonel Heber LeFavour, Captain A. M. Keeler and Lieutenants A. L. Matthews and Lewis Drake, all of the Twenty-second Michigan Infantry.

There were at this time between ten hundred and eleven hundred officers in the prison, who occupied six rooms, each forty-five by one hundred feet, also the lower middle room which was used as a general kitchen. These rooms were all connected so that we could visit in any part of the prison except the hospital. In the basement under the kitchen was a cell for the confinement of offenders. There were no beds nor chairs, and all slept on the bare floor, with blankets for covering if they were fortunate enough to obtain them. Our bread was made from unsifted cornmeal. We were sometimes furnished with venerable fresh beef—beef so venerable that it ought to have exacted reverence from all beholders. Sometimes we were furnished with vegetable soup and rice; occasionally we had a small piece of bacon issued to us, but it

was generally so full of animated life and industry that we could not use it except at a time of great need.

The officers formed themselves into messes, and each one took his turn in preparing such food as we could obtain. As I have before mentioned, kind friends in the north sent us boxes of food, which, if they were delivered to us, were shared with our more unfortunate comrades.

There was no glass in the windows, and for some time no fire in the rooms, thus making it very cold. The worst difficulty we had to contend with was the vermin, which were ever present with us. They were the most revolting feature of our prison life, and the one to which it was the most difficult to become reconciled. Only by examining our clothing once or twice each day could they be kept from swarming upon us. In the language of Richardson, "for the first few days I could not think of them without shuddering, but in time I learned to make my etomological researches with calm composure."

To improve or kill time we played cards, chess, checkers, opened a theatre, organized a band of minstrels (the best I ever heard), delivered lectures, established schools for teaching the bible, music, dancing, Greek, Latin, German, French, Spanish, mathematics and, in fact, almost everything. Occasionally moot courts would be held, which developed a good deal of originality and wit. Many of the officers became experts in cutting out finger rings, breastpins, crosses, paper knives, etc., from the beef bones extracted from our rations.

A manuscript newspaper was published, which was very amusing.

When one of our number died his remains were placed in an open wagon, in a box of rough boards, and rapidly drawn over the stony streets. There were no flowers from mourning friends to shed their perfume around and make radiant with their beauty the impressive scene, and there was no mourning pageant; but a thousand loyal hearts in Libby followed the gallant dead to his place of rest.

I soon found that nearly every one was projecting some plan for escape—in fact, I had given the subject some little consideration myself.

An officer from a Connecticut regiment, who had preceded me from the hospital, had a very severe attack of the escape fever. He said to me one day: "I am going to get

out of this living hell; will you join me in an attempt to escape?" I replied, "Yes, I am willing to take any reasonable risk for the sake of liberty. What is your scheme?" "I have had several interviews," he said, "with one of the sentinels, and I think he is a safe man. He has agreed to let me out for three silver watches, and I think there will be no difficulty in arranging for you to accompany me. There are some of my officers here who have managed to save their watches from the search, and I can easily borrow them. The sentinel will be on duty to-night at twelve o'clock, and we will have an interesting review with him.

We met at the appointed time, and I was not long in making up my mind that the sentinel was not the man into whose hands I would be willing to trust my life, and so informed the Colonel. But he seemed to have the greatest confidence in him, and upon my refusal to join him in the enterprise he assured me that he should most certainly take the chances.

A few nights afterward he invited me to be at the window and see him off for home. I was on hand at the appointed time and found the Colonel with three of his officers, who had loosened two of the iron bars so that he could squeeze through the window. He had made a rope out of his blanket, which was fastened about his body under his arms. We bade him "good bye," and he was lowered one story, by this rope, to the pavement beneath.

He untied the rope, which was drawn back into the prison, and was immediately asked in a low voice by the sentinel, "Where are the watches?" He took them from his pocket and gave them to him. The watches once in his possession, the sentinel brought his musket to the position of "charge bayonet," and said: "You d—d Yankee scoundrel, I will give you just two minutes to get back into the prison."

There was no mistaking the situation. The rope was lowered, the Colonel again tied it around his body and was drawn up into the prison, greatly to the amusement of the guard.

Once safely in the prison, I ventured to ask him how he found his friends up in the "Nutmeg State." He good-naturedly replied that, so far as he knew, they were all well, but he wanted one thing distinctly understood—the very next rebel confided in would be a dead one.

Colonel Thomas E. Rose, of the Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania Infantry, than whom no truer, braver man ever lived, was the originator and chief engineer of the celebrated tunnel through which we made our escape, and to him is due the credit of its final success. Others aided in its construction, but he furnished the brain power.

One hundred and nine officers passed through this tunnel, of which number fifty-one reached the Union lines in safety. The remainder were recaptured and returned to Libby.

Our kitchen contained two fire-places and three or four large kitchen stoves upon which we cooked our food. The storeroom underneath the hospital, which I have described, fronted on Cary Street, and was so situated that it was possible to reach it by digging downward and rearward through the fire-place and wall. From the basement it was proposed to construct a tunnel under the street to a point beneath a shed which was connected with a brick block on the opposite side, and from this place to pass into the street under an archway.

A knowledge of this plan was confided to about twenty officers, and nothing was known of the proceedings by others until the day before the escape.

A table knife, auger, chisel and wooden spittoon were used for working tools, when operations commenced. Enough of the masonry was removed from the fireplace to admit of the passage of a man, through a diagonal cut, to the storeroom below, and an excavation was then made through the foundation wall toward the street, and the construction of the tunnel then proceeded night by night. But two persons could work at the same time. One would enter the hole with the tools and a small tallow candle, dragging behind him the spittoon attached to a rope. The other would fan air into the passage with his hat, and with another string attached to the spittoon, would draw out the dirt-car when loaded, concealing its contents beneath the straw and rubbish of the cellar.

Each morning the working party returned to their quarters, after carefully closing the mouth of the tunnel and skillfully replacing the bricks in the chimney.

As the work progressed and there seemed to be a reasonable prospect of success, it occurred to me that it would be desirable, were I permitted to take a stroll about the outskirts

of the city, and learn, if possible, the location of the rebel forces and the lay of the land generally, so that, in the event the tunnel should prove to be a success, I might know how best to make my exit from the city. With this in view I addressed a letter to Mr. Sidden, rebel Secretary of War, stating that I had influential friends at the north who would make any reasonable effort to secure for me a special exchange; such an one as I thought might be advantageous to the Confederacy; and respectfully requested to visit, under guard, General Robert Ould, the Confederate Commissioner of Exchange, where I thought satisfactory arrangements might be made looking in that direction.

A few days after, to my great surprise, I was sent for to report to the office, when Captain Turner, more courteous than when we last met, informed me that he had been instructed by the Secretary of War to send me under guard to General Ould, and inquired if I was ready at that time to go. Replying in the affirmative, I was placed in charge of two soldiers, who received their instructions from Captain Turner. I had plenty of Confederate money in my pocket, which I had received from the guard in exchange for greenbacks at the rate of twenty-five dollars for one, and on leaving the prison I made up my mind that, as long as the money lasted I would have a good time with the two rebel soldiers in whose charge I had been placed.

I very speedily made their acquaintance, and on our way to General Ould's headquarters we called at several places where cigars, etc., were kept for sale, and the boys *seemed* to enjoy themselves at my expense. By the time we had arrived at headquarters the guard were in *most excellent spirits* and evidently thought me a pretty good sort of fellow, even though I was a Yankee. My interview with the general was very pleasant and entirely satisfactory. I was instructed to write to Senator Chandler and others, asking that they intercede with Secretary of War Stanton in my behalf, and after being promised another interview at an early day, the General passed me over to the guard, instructing them to conduct me to the place from whence I came, the then Federal headquarters at Richmond.

I had very little trouble in persuading the guard to return to the prison by a roundabout way through the outskirts of the city, which was to me the objective point. En-route

we called at the Spotswood Hotel, the principal one in the city, where I took a look at many of the "F. F. V's" and Confederate officers. Here the boys regaled themselves for the last time at my expense, and I was soon at home with my loyal mess.

An error occurred in the prosecution of the work on the tunnel which nearly proved fatal to the enterprise. By a miscalculation a shaft was run to the surface of the ground just before we reached our objective point, and while the officer was working a small amount of the surface earth caved in, and through the opening he could distinctly see two sentinels apparently looking at him. One of them said he had heard strange noises in the ground, but the other replied that it was nothing but rats. The damage was soon repaired by Colonel Rose, and the work proceeded.

The tunnel required about thirty days of patient, tedious and dangerous labor. It was eight feet below the surface of the street, between fifty and sixty feet in length, and barely large enough for a full grown person to crowd or crawl through flat on his face by pulling and pushing with his hands and feet.

A guard was kept each night at the fire-place, the entrance to the storeroom, to see that the scheme was not discovered by our comrades. One night by some mistake, Colonel Hobart had been assigned that duty by one of the party, while I had been assigned to the same duty by another. Everything was very quiet in the kitchen and it was very dark. While upon this duty I heard a noise near the chimney, and cautiously made my way in that direction. Colonel Hobart had made the same discovery. We were both on guard, neither knowing the presence of the other—and we were both loyal to our trust. We grappled at the fire-place, and both went to the floor. Hobart spoke; I recognized his voice; explanations were soon made; he laid down to rest while I continued on duty for the night.

When the tunnel was completed the company was organized into two parties, one of which was under command of Colonel Rose and the other of Colonel Hobart. Colonel Rose's party was to leave first. Most of the escaping party, among them myself, had provided themselves with citizens' clothing, my own having been sent from home, and, filling

our pockets with whatever we could find to eat, we were ready for our journey.

About seven o'clock on the evening of February 9, 1864, I passed through the tunnel with Major Terrence Clark of the Seventy-ninth Illinois Infantry, now of Paris, Illinois, as my companion. The Major preceded me and I found him waiting at the mouth of the tunnel. We locked arms and marched out into the street under the archway near which was burning a bright street gaslight. As we passed out one of the sentinels guarding the prison not sixty feet away, cried out, "Post No. eight, seven o'clock and all is well." We agreed substantially with the sentinel that up to that time all was well. At first we took the center of the street, but gaining confidence in the rectitude of our intentions, we ventured upon the sidewalk. We had not proceeded far when we were ordered by a sentinel, at what proved to be a hospital, to halt, and in reply to his interrogatory, "Who goes there?" I answered, "We are citizens, going home," to which he replied, "Take the middle of the street! You know that no one can walk on this yer' sidewalk in front of this yer' hospital after dark." We were again in hearty accord with the sentinel, and taking the middle of the street passed directly in front of the hospital without further annoyance.

At the first open lot we left the street and soon found ourselves in a ravine, through which ran a small stream of water, where we halted a few moments to rest. We soon began to climb a steep hill in our front. The ground was frozen and very slippery. I had not proceeded far when my foot slipped, and I found myself in the creek at the bottom of the hill. Emptying the water from my boots, we made another effort, and arriving at the summit of the hill we found ourselves near what is known as the "Rockets" and in the midst of a Confederate camp of soldiers. We could not well retrace our footsteps, and concluded to pass directly through the camp. No one spoke to us, and as we had no pressing business with any of the Confederate soldiers we did not stop to exchange salutations with them.

We were soon outside the city, and choosing for our guide the north star we pursued our journey. The heavy earthworks erected by the rebels for the better defense of the city during General McClellan's Peninsular campaign were soon passed.

Our object was to cross the Chickahominy as high up as possible, then cross the Yorkville Railroad, and follow down near the Williamsburg pike. Of one thing we were certain; if we continued our course between the James and York Rivers, and were not molested, we would ultimately reach Fortress Montroe.

We were soon among the trenches in which the Confederates had buried the Union soldiers killed at the Battle of Fair Oaks, and, although it was midnight, a strange feeling of security came over us, as if we were among our friends. It was the step and voice of the living that we dreaded.

Before daybreak we had passed the Chickahominy on a fallen tree, and secreting ourselves in a thicket, we lay down on the frozen ground to rest for the day. The weather was cold but we dare not build a fire or stir from our chosen place of concealment.

When night came we pursued our journey, avoiding all houses, clearings and roads, and whenever it became necessary to cross a road we always walked backwards.

Just at daybreak the next morning we thought we could hear the approach of footsteps, and, passing quickly into an old fallen treetop, we fell flat on the ground and awaited developments. A short time elapsed and we saw two figures stealthily approaching. The Major whispered, "There are only two of them, and unless they are armed we can and will dispatch them if they discover and undertake to molest us."

The two men came nearer and nearer to us, and I soon recognized them as Colonel H. C. Hobart of the Twenty-first, and Lieutenant-Colonel T. S. West of the Twenty-fourth Wisconsin Infantry, our fellow prisoners at Libby. We arose from the ground, they quickly recognized us and right there in the valley of the Chickahominy we had a love feast. We then and there agreed that no one of the four should be recaptured while any of the others remained alive.

By this time the entire population had been informed of the escape, and the country was alive with pursuers. We could distinctly hear the *reveille* of the rebel troops and the hum of their camps.

We divided ourselves into reliefs, each one taking the lead an hour at a time, always traveling in the night and hiding in some thicket during the daytime.

Crossing the railroad from Richmond to the White

House, we came upon a rebel sentinel asleep at his post. The morning's dawn brought the notes of the enemy's cavalry to our ears, in the pine forests close by us. We fled into the woods at the top of our speed, expecting every moment to hear the crack of a musket or the sharp command to halt. The only time we looked back was when we about faced to cross a road, and threading our way into a jungle we threw ourselves upon the ground completely exhausted.

As soon as friendly darkness returned we moved forward, weary, hungry and footsore, still governed in our course by the north star. But few words passed between us and we talked only in whispers.

So untiring was the search, and so thoroughly alarmed and watchful were the population that we felt that our safety depended upon a mere chance.

On Saturday night it was the turn of Colonel Hobart to act the part of picket and pilot, and while rapidly leading the way through a forest of low pine we suddenly found ourselves in the presence of a rebel cavalry reserve. The men were warming themselves around a smoldering fire, and their horses were tied to trees around them. Turning to us the Colonel gave the signal of danger. Surprised and alarmed, we remained motionless, but perceiving that our presence was unobserved, we very noiselessly withdrew. We knew that there must be videttes sitting somewhere near at the front in the darkness, and to escape discovery we retraced our steps about two miles to a plantation which we had passed a short time before.

After consultation we decided to visit a negro cabin and, if possible, to ascertain the location of the picket line in our front. Colonel Hobart was selected to visit the cabin and interview the inmates, while we lay down upon the ground at the door to listen to what was said. He knocked at the door, and receiving no response lifted the latch. The door opened and an old negro jumped from his bed and inquired: "What do you want?" The Colonel replied: "I am a traveler and have lost my way, and am here seeking information." The negro replied: "Go to Massa Dibble at the white house on the hill and he will direct you."

By this time the negro had dressed himself and approaching the Colonel, said: "Are you not one of the Union soldiers recently escaped from Richmond?" He replied in an instant:

"Yes, I am, and there are three more at the door. We are here because we know that every black man is the friend of the Union soldier and of the cause for which we contend. We are here because we know you will not betray us. We are in trouble and seek information in regard to the rebel picket line. Can you and will you aid us?" "Yes, I can and will," he replied, "but if it should ever be known my life will pay the forfeit. I am a slave and have a wife and two children who look to me for protection. I will do all I can for you, but remember I am in great danger."

After giving us a bowl of milk and a piece of corn bread, he bade us follow him, and leading the way, brought us to a thicket in the woods, where we sat down on a log and listened to all he had to say. He was intelligent, thoroughly acquainted with every foot of the country, and knew the location of every picket post, but he would not for some time consent to act as our pilot, fearing that he might be discovered. We at last prevailed upon him to go with us, and after following his lead for three miles in silence, he said: "You have now passed the picket line and will soon reach Diascum Creek, which you will cross on the bridge. Once across this bridge, you will be on neutral ground and comparatively safe. Look out for the rebel scouts, who visit the creek every morning."

We gave the negro all the money we had, and bidding him good bye, he started for home and we for the Union lines. If good deeds are recorded in Heaven, this slave's name appeared in the record that night.

We followed the pike until we reached Diascum Creek about daylight Sunday morning. The bridge across the creek had been burned. We tried to wade, but found the water too deep. Our anxiety was increased by the fear that we were discovered by some of the residents who lived in the vicinity. We at length waded waist deep, and on reaching the land found ourselves on an island in the stream, with deep water between us and the mainland.

Expecting every moment to see the enemy's cavalry, we were much disheartened when we saw a rebel soldier coming up the stream in a row boat, with a gun. We concealed ourselves in the bush and took a view of the man. Colonel Hobart accosted him as he approached, "Good morning, my friend, I have been waiting for you. They told me up at those

houses on the hill that I could get across the stream, but I find the bridge is gone and I am very wet and cold. If you will take me over I will pay you for your trouble."

The boat was turned in to the shore, the Colonel stepped into it, and we knew it was safe, as we noticed he took up his position very near the musket. He said to the soldier, "There are three more of us," and we immediately arose and made our way into the boat.

"Where did you all come?" said the boatman, seeming to hesitate and consider. We told him we were farmers residing near Williamsburg, and that we had been down to Richmond with produce and that the government, being in great need, had confiscated our teams, and we were obliged to walk home.

"The officers don't like to have me carry men over this river," he said, evidently suspecting who we were. "That is right," we replied, "you should not carry soldiers or suspicious characters. Pass your boat along."

With a little assistance it sped to the other shore.

We knew we were discovered, and that the enemy's cavalry would very soon be in hot pursuit, therefore we determined, after consultation, to go into the first hiding place and as near as possible to the stream. The wisdom of this course was soon demonstrated. The cavalry crossed the stream, dashed by us (we being in a thicket not more than forty rods from the road) and thoroughly searched the country at the front, not dreaming but we had gone forward.

We did not leave our seclusion until nearly midnight, and then felt our way with the greatest care. Our proximity to Williamsburg was apparent from the destruction everywhere in our path. There were no buildings, no inhabitants, and no sound save our own weary footsteps—desolation reigned supreme. Lone bare chimneys stood along our way like sentinels over the dead land, and over the whole scene war had traced its devastating autograph.

For five days and six nights, in midwinter, our feet frost-bitten, with very little to eat, and no fire, hunted and almost exhausted, with the silent stars for our guide, we had picked our way through surrounding perils toward the camp fires of our friends. We knew we were near the outposts of the Union troops, and began to feel as if our trials were nearly over, but we were now in danger of being shot as rebels by scouting parties from our own army.

To avoid the appearance of being spies we took the open road, alternately traveling and concealing ourselves that we might reconnoitre the way.

To my dying day I shall remember that, to me, eventful night. I led the advance, and about three o'clock in the morning, coming near the shadow of a dark forest that overhung the road, we were startled and brought to a stand by the sharp command, "Halt!" Looking in the direction whence the command proceeded, I discovered the dark forms of a dozen cavalymen, drawn up in line across the road. A voice came out of the darkness, saying, "Who comes there?" I replied, "We are four travelers." The same voice said, "If you are travelers, come up here and that very quick."

Moving forward the cavalry surrounded us, and carefully looking at their clothing, I at first thought it was grey, and was nerving myself for recapture.

It was a supreme moment to the soul! I at length gathered sufficient courage to inquire, "To what regiment do you belong?"

In broad United States accent the answer came back, "To the Eleventh Pennsylvania Cavalry."

In an instant their uniforms turned to glorious blue and taking off our hats we gave one long, exultant shout. We were again under the protection of that dear old flag whose every fold is priceless.

It was like passing from death unto life, and our hearts filled with gratitude to Him whose sheltering arm had guided and protected us during all that weary journey.

Colonel McCreery reported to the regiment for duty about April 1st, 1864. April 11th, 1864, assigned to command of Engineer Brigade, Army of the Cumberland.

First Michigan Engineers (detachment).

Thirteenth Michigan Infantry.

Twenty-first Michigan Infantry.

Twenty-second Michigan Infantry.

Eighteenth Ohio Infantry.

The total force aggregated 2,940 men and officers. In addition to this command was assigned to duty as "Commandant of Post Lookout Mountain."

September 14, 1864, resigned on account of disabilities, the result of wounds (six in number) received in various actions with the enemy, while in the discharge of duty.

In the order accepting his resignation, Major-General George H. Thomas, commanding Army of the Cumberland, said: "In accepting the resignation of Colonel William B. McCreery, the Major-General commanding takes occasion to express his high appreciation of the soldierly qualities and the faithful discharge of duty, which have ever characterized Colonel McCreery's actions, at the same time regretting the existence of the disability which compels the withdrawal of so valuable an officer from the service."

With the same tireless energy that marked his army life, he entered into the business and political affairs of his city and State. Among the many responsible positions he was called upon to fill are the following: Twice Mayor of the City of Flint, Collector of Internal Revenue, under President Grant; twice elected State Treasurer; seven years a member of the State Board of Agriculture; Consul to Valparaiso, Chili, under President Harrison. His business affairs were of vast proportions, and in social life a member of the Loyal Legion, the G. A. R. and President of the "Libby Prison Association" and the life President of the Twenty-first Michigan Infantry Association.

*"Wind the oak leaves round his head;
He has shown himself a man."*

Fenton Reuben McCreery.

Fenton R. McCreery, the son of Colonel William B. McCreery and Ada Birdsall Fenton, was born at Flint, Michigan, April 21st, 1866.

Mr. McCreery has already had a distinguished career. His education was acquired first at the Michigan Military Academy and later at the University of Michigan, Class of 1888.

He early in life entered the Diplomatic Service of the United States. His offices were as follows:

Clerk in United States Consulate, Valparaiso, Chili, 1890-1.

Secretary of Legation at Santiago, Chili, 1891.

Charge d' Affaires, Chili, 1892-3.
Secretary of Legation and Embassy, Mexico City,
Mexico, 1897-1906.
Charge d' Affaires, 1905-6.
Minister Resident and Consul General to the Dominican
Government, January 10th, 1907.
Minister Resident to Republic of Honduras, 1910.

As this volume goes to press we have to record that Mr.
McCreery resigned his official position and again took up his
residence in the family mansion at Flint, Michigan.

APPENDIX.

Complete Fenton Searches Proving Genealogy.

Northampton, November 9th, 1903.

Probate office, City Hall, Vital Statistics—Nothing found.

Register's office, Book "A," back part.

Conveyances, Fenton or Finton—Nothing found. See below. All conveyance records of early date removed to Register of Deeds' office, Springfield.

Excepting record of Samuel Finton of Greenwich, Massachusetts, viz.: Liber 37, p. 272; Liber 11, p. 37; Liber 4, p. 466.

Springfield, Massachusetts, November 9th, 1903.

Note—The Rutland family must not be confused with the Robert Fenton of Woburn-Quabbin, Massachusetts.

Registry of Deeds, Libers 25, 234; 26, 375; 26, 6 and 7; 33, 64; 15, 406; 16, 538.

Register's Office, Worcester County, November 10th, '03.

Indexed as

Fenton:

1765	Jennett to Barr.....	51-419
1758	Jennett to Wm. Jameson.....	38-267
1740	John to Wm. Fenten.....	13-282
1735	Robert to Ezra Leonard.....	6-235 of Quabbin
1750	Sam'l to Wm. Fenton.....	26-465
1755	Sam'l to Simon Davis.....	36-412
1739	Wm. to John Fenton.....	12-118
1742	Wm. to Wm. Fenton, Jr.....	16-163
1744-5	Wm. to Samuel Fenton.....	19-280
1749	Wm. to Wm. Fenton, Jr.....	28-348
1752	Wm. to Sam'l Fenton.....	31-441
1749	Wm., Jr., to Wm. Fenton.....	26-464
1750	Wm., Jr., to J. Shaw.....	30-372
1751	Wm., Jr., to J. Carter.....	30-414
1751	Wm., Jr., to J. Gilmore.....	30-553

As Finton:

1805	Matthew to P. Nye.....	157-530
1731	William to O. Wallis.....	2-262
	and from Fitch to Wm., same Liber and page.	

By this conveyance William, Sr., got a part of his Rutland farm. In '39 he conveyed a part to son John, of Boston.

Register's Office, Worcester.

2-262—Deed dated 22 Feby., 1726-27. A deed by Thos. Fitch, of Boston, to William Finton—Exchange of land, lot 41—Rutland. Sells 30 acres, house, lot in Rutland with buildings, etc. This is first mention of Wm. Finton in this office.

157-530—Matthew Finton "of Rutland in the County of Rutland, Vt." No wife. Land in New Braintree, on road from Brookfield to Hardwick. Ack'd Jan. 8, 1799, before he married Hannah. Dated 11 Feby., 1797, recorded Feby. 5th, 1805.

51-419—Ackdt. of payt. of Mrs. Finton's legacy from her father's estate.

38-267—Jennit Finton and Mathew Barr, Exors., to Sam'l Fn., 30th Apl., 1756—Sell farm.

13-282—John Fonton or Fenton of Rutland, Massachusetts, to William Fonton of Rutland, £150—50 acres in six mile square near the Grist Mill. Dated 23rd September, 1740, and ackd. at Rutland.

12-118—Wm. Finton of Rutland to his son, John Fenton, of Boston, consn. 10 shilling and natural affection—60 acres, Rutland, by Grist Mill, 27 No., 1738, ackd. in Boston.

16-163—Wm. Fenton of Rutland—Good will and affection to his son, Wm. Fenton, Jr., also of Rutland—67 acres land in Rutland. Right 41. Dated Feby. 24, 1736-7. Ackd. in W. Co., May 26, 1742.

19-280—Wm. Fenton, Rutland—Paternal love &c., to Sam'l Fenton, ½ of lot 41, Rutland, 30 acres, being the homestead in my present possession.

April 1st, 1743:

28-348—Same to Wm., Jr., £180. Land in Rutland, where Wm., Sr., lives, and Anne Finton, his wife.

26th January, 1749-50:

26-464—Wm. Jr., goodwill to father—Lot 41.

31-441—Wm. Fenten of Rutland to Samuel Fenten (£200) of Rutland, Husbandman—108 acres, lot 41.

26th January, 1749-50:

26-465—Sam'l Fenten to "my hon. Father, Wm. Fenten."

21st January, 1749

his

36-412—Samuel, of Rutland by O, 8th Feby, 1754. £3
acknowledged before J. P. mark

Feby. 13th, 1754, to Simon Davis, plot, saw mill.

Fenten.

Grantee all the same deeds as above.

Town Clerk, Rutland, November 10, '03.

No births.

Intentions of Marriage—Agnes Finten, p. 357; Sam'l Finten, p. 359; William Finten, p. 363.

Agnes Finten to Anthony Galt, June 30, 1744. Married October 25th, 1744. Cert. October 20th, 1744, pubn. of bans.

Sam'l Fenten to Jane Barr, of Hardwicke, September 21st, 1745. Certificate October 10th, 1745, pubn. of bans.

William Finton, Jr. of Rutland to Anna Shaw of Brimfield, November 5, 1748. Cert. November 28th, 1748.

No other marriages.

Deaths, none.

Ann, wife of Wm. Finton, recd. into Congl. Ch., 1728; also Wm. Fenton, 1728.

Town Clerk, Rutland, November 10, '03, 3 P. M.

Proprietors' records, p. 291, book (1), September 19th, 1727—23 acres laid out for Wm. Fenton—House lot. (Early records of Rutland, see Middlesex Co.)

(2)

1727—67 acres upland.

(3)

Apl. 9, 1736—Laid out to him (p. 292) 50 acres upland.

(4) To Wm., Sr., and Jr., Jan 15th, 1744-5 (p. 293)—
41 acres (house lot).

(5) Wm. Fenton, June 8, 1748—15 acres, to "right"
of house lot.

(6) Wm. Fenton, June, 1743, narrow strip.

Try Cambridge, Sandbury, Lancaster, Middlesex.

House lot 41, down Spencer road. House lot is south-
west of Church about 1½ miles.

Nothing in cemetery—a wreck.

Clerk's Records, Rutland:

Meeting of proprietors, 15th May, 1723.

Six miles square.

Wm. Finton was present representing one plot.

Rutland Town Book was bought, 1723.

Wm. Finton chosen one of the Highway Surveyors,
March 11, 1722-3.

March 1, 1724-5—Constable.

March 7, 1725-6—Selectman and Assessor.

March 6, 1726-7—Fence Viewer.

March 4, 1727-8—Highway Surveyor.

March 3, 1729—Tything Man.

March 6, 1731-2—Surveyor Highways.

March 7, 1736-7—Surveyor Highways.

March 6, 1737-8—Surveyor Highways.

March 1739-40—Surveyor Highways.

March 1740-41—Surveyor Highways.

Mr. Hanff, Town Clerk, kindly furnishes above from
Records.

Rutland Public Library, 7 P. M., November 10, 1903:

"A history of Rutland, Worcester Co., Mass., from the
earliest settlement, by Jonas Reed, 1836."

December 26th, 1686, Indians executed a deed to Henry
Willard and others, twelve miles square. Fenton not in pro-
prietary list. Thos. Fitch, who sold to Wm. Fenton, was.
At proprietors meeting at Boston, December 14th, 1715, "six
miles square" set off for 62 families, now Rutland.

After this "the young settlers joined in companies, swung

their picks, shouldered their guns and provisions and marched through the woods to Rutland. Each went to work on his allotment."

Sept. 23, 1719—First child born.

Fifty families in four years.

1720, June 7th, plot selected for Meeting House.

1721, used first time.

Fenton not in petition of land holders to proprietors, June 10th, 1720.

Thos. Fitch drew 30 acre lot 43.

As late as 1720 no mention of Fenton.

Town incorporated May 30th, 1722.

Fenton in first list of town officers as Surveyor of Highways as Finton, last Monday of July, 1722.

Settlers from Boston, &c., and Ireland; several from Ireland brought letters teste from their churches.

MEM. "History of Brimfield, Mass.," pages 400-401, recites:

"The Fenton family came from Ireland to Rutland, Mass."

Dublin or Pond End, Rutland, Massachusetts.

This tract of land is at S. W. cor. "six miles square," a pleasant and fertile part of the town; as it was almost wholly peopled with emigrants from Ireland, it received the name of "Dublin" and comprises District No. 6. Within its bounds were eight house lots granted 1723, to

James Clark, 300 acres.

James Browy, 150 acres.

John Jeffries, 202 acres.

Ester Hatch, 161 acres.

Thos. Smith, 150 acres.

Jonathan Sewall, 106 acres.

Peter Cutler, 90 acres.

Wm. Fenton, 67 acres.

Duncan McFarland, 62 acres.

Hist. of Rutland, Massachusetts, by Jonas Reed, page 82:

Presbyterians.

The following persons brought Letters Testimonial of their being Communicants in Ireland and were received into

Church Fellowship in Rutland, viz.: * * (many names)
* *

Brought letters from Revd. Mr. Holyday, Presbyn. Minister of the Parish of Ardstraw in Ireland—Tyrone, Co., Ulster: * * * Ann, wife of Wm. Fenton * * * (and many others).

It is said that many of these Irish people sailed “in one ship” and “arrived in America in the early settlement of Rutland.”

Biglow Genealogy.

1. JOHN BIGLOW, the “Settler.”

1642, first mentioned at Watertown, Mass.; called there “Bigulah.” First wife, married on 30th, 8th month, 1642, Mary Warin; second wife, Sarah Berins, October 2, 1694. He died July 14th, 1703. Was also called “Biggalough.”

2. SAMUEL BIGLO, son of John and Mary.

Born October 28th, 1653; died ———. Married Mary Flagg, June 3rd, 1674. Mary Flagg born January 14th, 1658; died September 7th, 1720.

3. JOHN BIGELOW, Marlborough, Mass.

Son of Samuel and Mary. Married Jerusha Garfield, June 12th, 1696. He was born May 9th, 1675; died September 8th, 1769; 94 years old.

Benjamin Bigelow was the son of John and Jerusha (Garfield) Bigelow. He was born in Marlborough, Mass., October 8th, 1720.

January 17th, 1744, he married Levinah Thomas, daughter of William and Lydia (Eager) Thomas, who was born August 15th, 1721.

Shortly after his marriage he moved to Shrewsbury, and was there in 1745.

About 1752 he moved to Sheffield.

About 1756 he moved to Springfield.

Next moved to Hartford, where he was Ferryman in 1758. In 1760 he made his last move to Worthington, Mass., where he died in 1773.

His daughter, Lovina, born in 1759 at Hartford, Conn.; baptized May 22, 1759.

She married Mr. ——— Factor (Fenton) and (his-

torian says) was living in Rutland, Vermont, in 1820. (Curious mixing of Lovina Fenton Hopkins with her mother, who had been dead thirty years.)

Mrs. Factor (Fenton) was the grandmother of Ex-Governor Factor (Fenton) of Michigan.

The history of Bigelow family is to be found in the Lenox Library, New York City.

Holland, in his History of Western Massachusetts, says: "Among the earliest settlers were * * * Benjamin Bigelow * * * Matthew Fenton * * * ."

Rice's History of Worthington, last edition, 1874, says "the journey was made on horseback, bringing women and children and food, guided only by marks on trees."

Centennial celebration, 1868.

Revolutionary records from 1774 to 1777 are missing.

Fenton Genealogy.

Arriving at Rutland City Vermont, noon of September 2nd, 1903, I pursued the following course:

Directory of Rutland and West Rutland shows two Fentons—one a clerk—male—the other a Kate Fenton, servant.

Vermont Business Directory shows Charles J. Fenton, Town Clerk of Pittsford, eight miles north.

Work in office of "Rutland Probate District," Mr. Robbins, Judge, informs me that in early days no formal petition was required, only application; that there was a serious fire, many valuable old documents burned; that he gathered the remnants, sorted and boxed them. Box F was handed me. Much information therein.

Books 1 and 2 contain no reference to Fenton.

Book 3, *I quote* my first light on subject.

October 21st, 1801, administration on the estate of Samuel Finten "late of Rutland," was granted to Matthew Finten and Moses Lester. Bond, \$3,000.00, Stephen Williams, bondsman.

In "F" box, aforesaid, rescued memoranda.

In a trembling cramped hand I find this waiver addressed to Court—evidently dictated.

"Sir I wood request you to appoint Mr. Matthew Finten

and Moses Lester Administrators of the estate of Samuel Finten, my late husband, dectd., and that I wish to waive my right of widow.

MARTHA FINTEN."

October 19th, 1801.

In file I find citation to "Martha Finten, widow of Samuel Finten, and Mary Finten, daughter of said deceased."

Attached to service proof I find, in a very poor, cramped hand, "Matthew Finten."

Note here that the laws of Vermont provide "Administration of Decedent's Estate: Administration shall be granted—I, to widow or next of kin, or both, or to such person as requested by widow."

We thus have kinship between Samuel and Matthew.

Book 3, p. 399, February 23, 1803—Administration on estate of (above bondsman) Stephen Williams granted Daniel Williams and Matthew Finten. Bonds fixed at \$10,000.

At page 337, October 8, 1802—Settlement of estate account, real estate, \$801.00; personal, \$729.43. Allowed to widow and children, \$284.44.

It appears that the remainder of the personal property would not pay Samuel's debts and Matthew was ordered to sell the farm.

Book 4—the spelling now becomes indiscriminately Finten and Fenton (*but only by copyist*).

Page 14—Supplementary inventory of Samuel Finten. October 19th, 1891, viz.: "One three-year-old heifer, etc., etc., \$65." List of Samuel's debts foots up \$549.47.

Page 141—Matthew Finten appointed to "set off" dower to Poly Williams, wife of Samuel Williams.

Book 5, p. 268, December 1, 1809—Matthew Finten was appointed Administrator of (above) Poly Williams (widow of Rev. Samuel, of the church there, editor, etc.)

Note here, also, there were two Samuel Williams' extant here at that date—cousins, both editors of Rutland Herald.

Book 7, pp. 210 to 214—Bigelow C. Fenton and Moses Leicester (Lester) were appointed Administrators of estate of Matthew Finten, deceased.

Messrs. Asa Hall and Gresham Cheney, appraisers, who report long list of personal property, such as promissory notes, furniture, wagons, farm produce, etc., \$6,273.00.

Realty—84 acres of land, with buildings thereon, on which the deceased lived, being a part of the “five rights” and valued at \$2,000.00.

18 acres of land, formerly a part of the estate of Samuel Finten, deceased, \$250.00.

11 1-4 acres of land bounded on Adam Willis.

7 acres of land, part of Cedar Swamp.

69 acres of land, bought Return Strong.

19 acres of land, with the buildings, formerly a part of the dower of Polly Williams.

Appraisal dated May 10th, 1813; returned to Court June 14th, 1813.

Book 8, pp. 14 and 15, January 19th, 1814—Citation issued to Administrators of Matthew Finten to appear, etc., etc.

Book 9, pp. 105-106—At a Probate Court held February 15th, 1814, “On application of Moses Lester and Bigelow C. Fenton, Administrators, etc., *Ordered*, by authority of Court of Probate and the Special Statute empowering it passed by Legislature for it, that they convey to De La Fayette Williams and Putnam Williams, heirs of Samuel Williams, land on highway. See act next.

On September 9th, 1903, on my return to the city I went to the library of The Association of the Bar and found the Fenton *Act* a mere legal verification as to relationship.

Book 10, p. 352, May 10th, 1819—“Account of Bigelow C. Fenton and Moses Lester, Administrators Est. Matthew Fenton.”

Very full and long debit and credit account. Among the items I cull a few as of interest:

1. Samuel Finten is mentioned as if alive—this must be a Samuel, son of John, Matthew’s brother.

2. The Administrator paid “Doctors Porter and Cleveland for Lovina doctering and Bigelow, \$55.62. Also for “Clarissa and Anna Finten?”

3. "Allowed Bigelow C. Fenton, of Norwich, New York, my time in administering on estate and expense of two journeys from Norwich here and expenses and team, \$55.00."

4. Also to him—"Journey to Aurora, ten days to procure quit claim deed from Samuel Fenten's heirs." (What Aurora? Where?)

Page 354 is a certificate signed by "Loring Fenton for himself as attorney for Joseph S. Fenton, Bigelow C. Fenton and Matthew Fenton," saying account was satisfactory.

In file are original signatures of Bigelow C. Fenton to various papers; also papers signed by Loring Fenton and Josiah Hopkins (husband of Lovina).

John Finten.

A brother of Matthew.

Book 10, March 9th, 1818—Administration granted to his son, Samuel, his widow, Silence Finten, having waived her right.

City Clerk's Office.

Note. In Vermont all deeds, etc., are recorded with Town or City Clerk, who answers to the Register of Deeds in New York.

Book of Births.

1804—Horace Finten, Book N, p. 28

1806—J. W. Finten, Book N, p. 28

1808—Bigelow Finten, Book N, p. 28

1810—Marion Finten, Book N, p. 28

To 1836, no other entry—mere index.

Book of Deaths.

No Finten or Fenton recorded, equal date, to 1836.

Book of Births (continued).

Children born to Seth Fenton and Jane, his wife.

Horace, October 6th, 1804, Book N, p. 28

Seth W., August 23rd, 1806, Book N, p. 28

Bigelow C., November 26th, 1808, Book N, p. 28

Mary Ann, September 14th, 1810, Book N, p. 28

Marriages.

Horace Fenton to Rheumma Abbott, 27th of March 1827;
all to 1836.

City Clerk.

Book of Conveyances.

Complete list of book record made by T. Astley Atkins,
September 3rd, City Clerk's office, Rutland, Vermont. Each
of these inspected carefully:

2-169	7- 40	8-324	10-103
9-279	6- 84	7-468	9-119
- 56	4-158	-186	-121
- 53	3-131	-455	-120
- 54	2-169	-456	-516
- 55	9- 53	-468	-437
- 57	-305	-458	-456
- 52	-437	-418	-450
8-436	-274	-375	-451
14-263	-278	- 64	-430
-273	8-436	- 64	-452
12-401	-357	- 32	- 57
14- 76	11-217	- 32	- 50
10-129	10-148	6-213	- 53
5-129	9-241	-213	- 51
3-316	10- 2	-211	
5-231	10- 3	-114	
		- 83	
3-281	8-179	5-236	
-127	-180	9-452	
6-212	-126	-430	
-212	-127	-452	
- 12	-264	-516	
- 12	-237	-450	
7- 32	-263	10-129	

Results of search in above books mere abstracts.

First deed recorded in Rutland was in 1774.

(1)

Samuel Finten of Rutland for \$337.00 conveys to Daniel
Perry, Mar. 31, 1798, land deeded to Matthew 1795 Finten.
Book 5, p. 129 and Book 6, p. 12.

(2)

In 1787, for 56 pounds, John Finten of Rutland bought a farm in Rutland.

Mr. Charles J. Fenton, Town Clerk of Pittsford, tells me that family tradition located John Finten's farm a mile to the north of old burying ground on North Main Street, Rutland.

(3)

Matthew Finten of Rutland, April 8, 1785, for 240 pounds, bought a farm of 60 acres on "division of Moses Field" on the highway (Main Street).

(4)

Bought still another parcel in 1800.

(5)

Samuel Finten, of Rutland, sold to Daniel Perry for (22 acres) \$300 a plot "South of Matthew Finten's parcel," bought of Perry, December 21, 1795, bounded by Matthew Finten's home lot, parallel with the *fire rights line*.

(6)

Anthony Goff (e) and Martha Goff (e) quit claim to Mary Finten, Clarissa Finten, Anna Finten and Samuel Finten, all of Rutland, one-half of Samuel Finten's farm. This conveyance was witnessed January 30, 1804, by Bigelow C. Finten and Lovina Finten.

(7)

Matthew Finten, April 15, 1804, conveyed to Moses Lester "part of the farm lately owned by Samuel Finten," deceased. Also witnessed by his children Bigelow C. Finten and Lovina Finten.

(8)

Matthew Finten bought, July 15, 1809, nineteen acres upon highway by turnpike leading from Rutland to Stockbridge (Woodstock Avenue and Main Street).

Note. Near this corner there still remain some very old houses.

(9)

In a Power of Attorney, Book 8, p. 436:

April 19, 1813, Joseph Fenton, of Norwich, in the county of Chenango, New York, recites: "I am seized of one equal undivided fifth part of * * * of which Matthew Fenton,

in the town of Rutland, died seized or elsewhere as heir at law of the said Matthew Fenton," appoints "Bigelow C. Fenton, also an heir," to sell, etc., etc.

(10)

A Samuel Finten, October 13, 1811, gets a deed from Samantha Keeler. Probably John's son Samuel.

(11)

Josiah Hopkins and Lovina, his wife, of New Haven, Vermont, release to Bigelow C. Fenton, February 18, 1815, "all their rights," etc. Book 9, p. 52.

(12)

Power of Attorney, August 11, 1817, Bigelow C. Fenton to Joseph S. Fenton, to act for him as to estate. Acknowledged before Lot C. Clark, Notary Public, Chenango County, New York.

Book 9, p. 54—Bigelow C. Fenton says "of which my father, Matthew Fenton died seized."

Bigelow C. Fenton also conveys several pieces owned by Matthew.

(13)

Book 9, p. 53—There is a deed from Matthew Fenton, of Ellisburgh, Jefferson County, N. Y., described as "son and heir of Matthew Fenton, late of Rutland, to Joseph S. Fenton and Bigelow C. Fenton, sons and heirs of said Matthew Fenton," conveys all Matthew's interest to his brothers.

(14)

Book 9, p. 452—Deed by Samuel C. Fenton, of Lawrence, Otsego County, N. Y., for \$450 to Moses Lester and Bigelow C. Fenton of *Norwich*, as Administrators, land in Rutland, and to Joseph S. Fenton, and Bigelow C. Fenton, of Norwich, N. Y., September 22, 1817, all the interest he has as an heir of Samuel Fenton.

Note. In 1791 John Finten asks to have his 44 acres, Boylston plot, re-surveyed.

Church Records.

September 5, at 5 P. M., called upon Rev. George W. Phillips, pastor of the "Congregational Church of Rutland,

Vermont," who tells me that this church was established in 1788, and Rev. Samuel William Hollis, professor at Harvard, came as first settled pastor, 1789. Dr. Williams ceased preaching and with his cousin, in December, 1794, founded the Rutland Herald.

(New) Book of Church Records—copied from an old book (Scribe changed Finten to Fenton industriously.)

"At a Church Meeting, April 18, 1811, chose Matthew Fenton, Esq., deacon." May 2nd, "Brother Fenton declared this acceptance."

A note of Matthew Fenton's death made April 29, 1813.

His name does not appear as an incorporator, October 5, 1788.

March 14, 1802, admitted Martha Fenton. Transferred to Burlington, N. Y.?

Admitted August 21, 1803, Matthew Fenton and Hannah, his wife.

November 4, 1810, Lavina Fenton, wife of Josiah Hopkins, transferred to New Haven.

March 2, 1817, Dulcena and Joanna T. Fenton.

Admitted January 4, 1818.

Joseph Fenton Cushman removed to New York.

March 17, 1819, widow Silence Fenton. John's widow.

March 5, 1826, Mary Ann Fenton.

May 7, 1826, Dismissed Bigelow C. Fenton.

September 4, 1831, dismissed Clarissa N. Fenton.

Excommunicated May 1, 1836, Jane Fenton.

Baptized.

May 23, 1802, Eunice, Clarissa, Anna, Samuel C., children of widow Martha Fenton.

1806, Horace and Seth W., sons of Seth Fenton.

1809, Bigelow Clarence, son of Seth Fenton, June 4.

1811, Mary Ann, daughter of Seth Fenton, July 7.

1810, Lavinia Finten, no parents named.

1817, Matthew, Hubbell, Clarissa, Ursula and Emily Fenton, children of Seth.

Marriages.

January 9, 1798, Samuel Finten (son of John) of Rutland, to Cynthia Wood.

August 21, 1803, Anthony Goffe, of Otsego County, N. Y., to Martha Finten, of Rutland.

August 31, 1813, Rev'd Josiah Hopkins, of New Haven, Addison County, Vermont, and Miss Lavina Finten, of Rutland.

Family of John Finton.

Mr. Charles J. Fenton, Town Clerk of Pittsford, Vermont, is descended in a direct line from John Finten, the older brother of Matthew Finten.

In the same cemetery, adjoining Matthew's grave, is a tombstone, "In memory of Mr. John Finten, whose death was occasioned by the burning of his house, February 22, 1818. Aged 68 years."

"An honest, industrious man, an affectionate husband, tender parent, a kind neighbor and valuable citizen."

John's son, Samuel, was born August 25th, 1774; died July 25th, 1854. At Pittsford, Vermont, married Cynthia Woods. His son, Samuel T., was born August 25th, 1810; died July 25th, 1887. At Pittsford, Vermont, married Miss A. R. Hall, 1831. Obit., 1857. His son, Charles J. Fenton, was born May 29th, 1834. His son is Henry Sumner Fenton.

This family is well noticed in the local History of the Town of Pittsford. Biographical sketch and the family record by A. M. Caverly, M. D., Rutland, 1872.

Official Search, Dublin Records.

Diocese of Derry—Wills.

Fenton, John, Urney, 1722.

Fenton, John, Urney, 1733.

Fenton, Manasses, Urney, 1746 and 1747.

Diocese of Armagh.

Some Fenton wills of County Tyrone, but after 1800.

No Prerogative Grants before 1722, except one for Fenton of County Antrim.

Parish Register.

Urney, in the Diocese of Derry, County Tyrone.

BAPTISMS.	MARRIAGES.	BURIALS.
1803-1877.	1814-1844	1815-1877.

Under Retention Order.

Parochial Returns in the Record Office, but do not commence till 1828.

County Tyrone, Health Money Roll.

One for 1666.

Subsidy Roll, 1662.

Dublin, 1909.

BY MISS GERTRUDE THRIFT,
Official Searcher.

Correspondence with Various Persons,

From September 2nd, 1903, to Date of Publication.

Letters to Mrs. Sanborn, Redwood City, California—35.
Paul Munsell's Sons, Albany, N. Y.—1.
Rutland, Vt., *Herald*—4.
Hon. Charles J. Fenton, Pittsford, Vt.—11.
Postmaster, Worthington, Mass.—1.
George K. Tuffts, Town Clerk, New Braintree, Mass.—3.
J. Brush Fenton—20.
Dr. F. H. Atkins, Los Angeles, Cal. and London, England—6.
Louis M. Hanff, Rutland, Mass.—4.
Rev'd A. McLurg, Newton Stewart, Ireland—3.
B. F. Rockwell, New York City—3.
Massachusetts Historical Assn., Boston, Mass.—1.
Pastor Pelham Congregational Church, Mass.—1.
Rev'd H. L. Packard, Amherst, Mass.—1.
F. H. Gulley, Amherst, Mass.—1.
Pastor 1st Presbyterian Church, Wales, Mass.—2.
Mr. George M. Hitchcock, Brimfield, Mass.—3.
Town Clerk, Wales, Mass—1.

Town Clerk, Brimfield, Mass.—1.
 Laura F. Spalding, Brimfield, Mass.—1.
 William B. Fenton, Palmer, Mass.—2.
 Postmaster, Fintona, Ireland—1.
 William Fenton, De Wend, England—1.
 Postmaster, Barrington, N. Y.—1.
 Postmaster, Pen Yan, N. Y.—1.
 George W. Finton, Pen Yan, N. Y.—3.
 George R. Cornwell, Pen Yan, N. Y.—1.
 George S. Johnson, Palmyra, N. Y.—1.
 Superintendent of Schools, Rutland, Vt.—1.
 Middlebury College, Vt.—1.
 Vergennes Academy, Vt.—1.
 New Hampshire Hist. Soc., Concord, N. H.—1
 Town Clerk, Goshen, Mass.—1.
 Reginald Fenton, Coronado, Cal.—3.
 Postmaster, Palmer, Mass.—1.
 A. R. Allen, Palmer, Mass.—1.
 Calvin Hitchcock, Ware, Mass.—3.
 Ferrar Fenton, London, England—5.
 Rev'd W. J. Lowe, D. D., Londonderry, Ireland—1.
 T. A. Groves, Dublin, Ireland—1.
 Pastor Cong'l Church, Hardwick, Mass.—1.
 Rev'd Harlan Page, Hardwick, Mass.—1.
 Hon. J. E. Barr, New Braintree, Mass.—1.
 Miss Julia Decker, Flint, Mich.—9.
 S. Halsey Lewis, Boston, Mass.—10.
 Hon. F. R. McCreery, San Domingo—2.
 S. G. Fenton, Seapatrick, Ireland—4.
 Pastor Congregational Church, Norwich, N. Y.—1.
 Pastor Congregational Church, Palmyra, N. Y.—2.
 Pastor Cong'l Church, Strabane, Ireland—1.
 Rev'd Samuel Fenton, Bellaghy, Ireland—2.
 Miss Gertrude Thrift, Official Searcher, Dublin,
 Ireland—2.
 Rector Urney Church, Urney, Ireland—1.
 Rev'd J. Olphert, Urney, Ireland—5.
 Postmaster, Urney, Ireland—1.
 C. R. Johnson, Norwich, N. Y.—2.
 Miss C. Bonner, Urney, Ireland—1.
 J. Perry, Urney, Ireland—1.

Correspondence.

Farrar Fenton to T. Astley Atkins.

COPY.

From Farrar Fenton, M. R. A. S., Author, 8 Kings Road,
Mitcham, S. W., England, to T. Astley Atkins, Esq.,
73 Nassau Street, New York, U. S. A.

2nd October, 1906.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your two letters of the 26th February, '06, and the 10th of September, '06, relating to ancestry, I may say that the statements made in Mr. Reginald Fenton's notes are all wrong, he having been misled by some ignorant person. My pedigree of the family from Domesday-book (1074) to 1906 is alone correct, having been compiled from National Records of Britain. It is too large to give here, but I have tried to fix from which of Sir Geoffrey Fenton's own brothers Mrs. Julia Fenton Atkins is descended from. They were Edward, John, Robert, Anthony, *James* and Henry Fenton, of the line of the Nottingham Fentons.

I believe her to be descended from Captain (or as now named General) James Fenton, whom I find by the Record-Office documents was a distinguished officer of Queen Elizabeth's Army, and commanded a division in defeating O'Neil's Rebellion in Ulster, where his older brother, Edward, held the chief command.

On retiring from the service James Fenton returned to his ancestral estate in Staffordshire, England, and died 1614.

The family still exist as a leading county one at Fenton Hall, City of Fenton, Staffordshire.

His son, also James, died in 1640; his son I have not ascertained the name of. He was a lawyer and father of Elijah Fenton, died 1732, the celebrated poet and collaborator with Alexander Pope in translating Homer. So far the English line of James Fenton.

James, as other officers serving in the re-conquest of Ireland under Elizabeth, was given forfeited land of the rebels and founded the Antrim Fentons by some one of his sons.

I find in 1660 died Reginald Fenton of Inchgram, County Antrim, but a full list I have not been able to obtain.

Some of the family removed to County Tyrone and that line still flourish in County Sligo.

I will make further inquiries and write you again about what I ascertain.

Yours truly,

FARRAR FENTON.

Farrar Fenton, M. R. A. S., 8 Kings Road, Mitcham, S. W.,
to T. Astley Atkins.

Honorable and Dear Sir:

May 17th, 1907.

I promised you when in New York last fall to hunt up more about Mrs. Fenton Atkins' ancestry. As I then said, and in a letter from England told you, she was descended from Elizabeth and General James Fenton. After much searching and outlay of money I have found the following facts: James Fenton, as I told you in my former letter, on retiring from the army in Ireland, returned to Bromley-Abbots, Staffordshire, England, where he had an estate, and in the Register there I find the following entry: "1612, Jacobus Fenton, bur. 18 Oct." His will for his English estate was proved at the Fichfield Probate Court, 1614.

From Tyrone you told me came the Massachusetts Fentons. I am still corresponding with namesakes in Ireland. I have recently acquired by purchase a large number of documents relating to the Fenton family for eight hundred years

(Sd.) FERRAR FENTON, M. R. A. S.

I am yours truly,

past—all official.

Mrs. Perry to T. Astley Atkins.

Urney Park, January 7th, 1909.

Dear Sir:

I must apologize for the delay in answering the letter which my husband had from you regarding the Fenton family. He wishes me to say that he very much regrets being unable to give you any information. I always understood that Mr. Benjamin Fenton built this house, but of course there is no one living now old enough to remember anything.

Yours truly,

(Sd.) K. S. PERRY.

Rev. John Olphert to T. Astley Atkins.

Urney Rectory, Urney, Co. Tyrone, Ireland,
November 17th, 1908.

Dear Sir

Please forgive my delay in answering your letter relative to the Fenton family, but I have been trying to get any information I can. I can find no tombstone in the churchyard with the name of Fenton on it. I have told the sexton to examine all the old stones and to let me know if he finds the name. In the church there is a mural tablet by Manasses Fenton, the church warden of the day, donor of several other gifts, whose son's monument is still in this church. I have also a curious old copper alms collecting box of the old warming pan pattern which bears the inscription, "In resum Ecclesiae de Urney, Manasses Fenton, Odites Hoc. dono dedit 1753." There is an old Irish silver chalice which I think most likely was also his gift, but it bears no date or name of donor, only "In resum Ecclesiae de Urney." I have no parochial records going back further than 1813, but as far as I can learn the Fentons built the residence called "Urney Park," which is at the other side of the road to the Rectory. It passed from them into the hands of Sir James Galbraith about the close of the eighteenth century. It next passed into the possession of Captain A. Ferguson Knox, about 1850-60. The Knox family have recently sold it and it is now inhabited by a farmer, Mr. James Perry, whose wife is the daughter of the aforesaid Captain Knox. If I can find out anything more about the Fenton Family I shall be glad to write and inform you.

Believe me yrs. sincerely,
(Sd.) JOHN OLPHERT.

Urney Rectory, Urney, Co. Tyrone.

October 27th, 1910.

T. Astley Atkins, Esq.

Dear Sir: I have been away from home on a short holiday, and so have not been able to reply to your letter of September 19th. As soon as I came back I went with the sexton to the churchyard to examine two tombstones which he discovered about two months ago. The stones are side by side

and they had been overlaid with some six inches of sod. One stone I am unable to decipher, the wording is quite illegible and it appears to me to be in Latin, as one word looks as if it might be "Dominicus." I may be able when I get a little time to work at it, to clean the letters and make more out of it. The other stone beside it is as follows: "Here is the burial place of Manasseh Fentown. He died July the 30th, 1670." Underneath is a crest which looks like a Phoenix and a coat of arms, and underneath the motto, "Per ardua Asurgo." Underneath this is a skull and cross-bones and the inscription, "Memento Mori." If 1670 is the correct date on the tombstone it must be the burial place of another and earlier Manasseh Fentown to the Manasses Fenton who gave the old collecting box to the church in 1753.

Believe me yrs. truly,

JOHN OLPHERT.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE,
WHITEHALL, LONDON, S. W.

November 28, 1910.

Dear Sir:

My cousin, Sir Harry Stewart, has sent me your letter of the eighth instant on chance of my being able to assist you in tracing your wife's ancestors. I am sorry to say, however, that I am not in a position to be of any help to you.

There are no old papers at all at present at Fort Stewart and I believe the family solicitors in Dublin have nothing, practically, beyond the wills, deeds of the property. Anyhow there would be nothing relating to the former estates of the family in the County of Tyrone, as these all went to the Gardiner family (heirs through a granddaughter of the first Lord Mountjoy) on the death of the Earl of Blessington, in 1769. The Gardiner fortune was run through by the Earl of Blessington, of that family, who died in 1829, and I suppose the estates were split up and sold in his time. It would be impossible, I should think, to trace now any of the old papers relating to the property. I believe, as a matter of fact, there is a member of the Gardiner family still living near Newton Stewart—I rather think at a place called Rash—but I fancy he is unlikely to be able to give any information. Have you looked at Hill's "Plantation of Ulster?" You might find

something there. My copy is now at Fort Stewart, so I have been unable to refer to it.

Sir Annesley Stewart, of Fort Stewart, who succeeded to Lord Blessington's baronetcy, purchased the Ramelton and Fanad estates in the County of Dougal on Lord Blessington's death. The plate, pictures and everything else went out of the family.

I note that you infer from an old record that the Fenton's were a Scotch family, but I cannot think that the name is anything but English. Repeating that I cannot help you, I remain, dear sir,

Yours faithfully,

WALTER STEWART.

The Hon. T. Astley Atkins.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE,
LONDON, S. W.

December 21, 1910.

Hon. T. Astley Atkins,
Yonkers, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I am glad to learn from your letter of the 10th instant that the information I gave you was of some use, even though unfortunately in a negative direction.

You are so kind as to send me an extract from the "Fenton Book" about to be published. This extract I have read with interest, but I hope you will pardon me for making certain observations upon the references made to the Plantation of Ulster.

In the first place I cannot believe that there is any reliable authority for the statement that "All comers seem to have been dubbed Scots * * * *." I have myself some acquaintance with the old surveys and I have found there a very careful distinction made between Scots and English.

Moreover, when the scheme of the Plantation was drawn up the land to be disposed of was divided between the two nationalities, and families of both were, I believe, never settled together in the same precinct.

I should have said that the immigration from Scotland was the more important of the two and some proof of this

would seem to be afforded by the predominance of Scottish names at the present time amongst the Protestants of the north of Ireland. In the City of Londonderry the majority of the shops have Scottish names over them, the rest being mainly Irish, though a certain number are English. I should think the same thing is probably the case at Belfast, but I have not myself been there.

The family to which I belong came, of course, from Scotland and the tenantry on the proportions of land allotted originally to Sir Wm. Stewart, first Baronet, were purely Scottish, and to this day on the property of my cousin, the eleventh baronet, including the small town of Ramelton, practically all the people have Scottish names and are of the Presbyterian religion. They have kept aloof from the Irish for three centuries. They are proud of their Scottish origin and still look upon the Irish as a race inferior in civilization to themselves. Further, they speak English with the accent of Scotland and not with an Irish brogue. The idea that the Scottish and English settlers ever abandoned their own (English) language, manners, customs, etc., for those of the Irish is quite ludicrous and the ever-recurring fights between the Protestants and Roman Catholics in the north of Ireland show well enough how far an amalgamation between the different races has taken place. The settlers from *England* in other parts of Ireland have no doubt in a vast number of cases become hibernicised, but this has, generally speaking, certainly not been the case in Ulster.

As for the change of spelling in the name of Fenton, the forms Finton and Vinton are no more Irish than the original form, and the lack of preciseness with regard to the spelling of proper names in the seventeenth century is, of course, notorious.

The proportion in which the Fenton family held land under Lord Mountjoy was, if the Fentons were original Plantation settlers, no doubt a proportion purchased by the Stewart family from an original English allottee who had planted his estate with English tenants.

I would recommend you again most strongly to read Hill's *Plantation of Ulster*." You will see that it bears out what I have said. It is a very well known work and ought to be obtainable fairly easily. If you meet with any difficulty in getting it, however, I shall be pleased to send you my own

copy for return when done with it. At present, unfortunately, my cousin has it in Ireland. I think you might quite well find in it information of value about the Fenton Family.

I note that you speak of publishing my last letter in the Appendix to the "Fenton Book" and I would venture to suggest that, if Chapter 1 is to appear finally in the form sent to me, it would be worth while printing this letter also.

I am, dear sir,

Yours very truly,

WALTER STEWART.

Rutland, Vt., Oct. 10, 1910.

Mr. Thomas Astley Atkins,
Yonkers, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 8th is at hand. I cannot exactly locate the little old school house on North Main Street, because it was destroyed years before I ever heard of it; and all I know about its location is what the Rev. Dr. Butler wrote me.

Later in the day when you called I met Mr. Charles E. Ross, a long-time resident, and well-known business man here, who told me that he remembered the old shop, but stated no details.

Dr. Butler was born in March, 1815, and wrote me that he could remember a school being kept in the building afterwards used by his father for a hat shop; also that he first attended school in the newer building on South Main Street, beginning with its first opening. That building, probably used as a dwelling after about 1852, was torn down in 1899 or 1900, the bricks being taken for a dwelling house now standing on Baxter Street.

My desk dictionary, after stating the primary and usual meaning of the noun "usher," says "(2) (Eng.) An under teacher in a school." I was not aware that the English usage prevailed in this country until in a Boston paper I recently read that a certain Harvard graduate lately deceased, had served as an "usher" at the Boston Latin School during a certain considerable number of years, beginning some years after his graduation.

Very truly yours,

H. A. HARMON.

ARDSTRAW MANSE,
NEWTOWN STEWART,
COUNTY TYRONE, IRELAND.

June 14th, 1904.

Dear Mr. Atkins:

Your letter to hand some little time ago; and I am sorry to be unable to give you any fuller information about your wife's ancestors.

You see during the years of the "Presbyterian oppression" and about the date when you say the Fentons left this country the whole district was depopulated. There is not a single family here anywhere to-day whose ancestors were here at that time. Nor indeed is there one whose ancestors were here for fifty years or more after. The whole population of that time left this place by degrees and went elsewhere and others gradually took their place. In fact most of the people have been changed two or three times since then. Besides, all early ecclesiastical records have been lost so far as I know. I have no records for a hundred years after the time you name—that is, no books giving record of births or marriages or such like. You see in those days marriage was only legal when performed by the Episcopal clergy; and baptismal records were lost amidst the troubles of the persecutions. Ireland has had a troubled history.

There is not a Fenton anywhere in the district now, and not one who knows anything about them. You see you don't know any particulars; and Ardstraw at that date was a congregation that numbered many hundred families, scattered over a district ten or twelve miles long and as many broad. Indeed it was fifteen or eighteen miles long.

I am sorry, but I know of no way that I can set you on the track of information. If you cared to write to Rev. W. T. Latimer, Eglish, Dungannon, Ireland, he *might* be able to tell of some old records of Presbytery or such like in which the names you seek are *mentioned*. But even then he could not possibly give any particulars. Particulars of that sort dealing with early times were generally lost. It is from those who have gone to America or elsewhere and carried family records with them that we got any particulars of those early

times. Mr. Latimer is our church historian and is your only hope.

Thanks for information re settler,

Yours sincerely,

A. MACLURG.

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK.

Rutland, Mass., Nov. 15, 1903.

Hon. T. Astley Atkins.

My Dear Sir:

I received, last night, your pamphlet which I read with interest. I saw the Town Clerks Friday afternoon and learned from New Braintree that their records have been in Boston being rebound; this accounts for the delay in answering your letter. Jane Barr was of Hardwick according to our records.

I have been looking over the town records and from them I think William Fenton was among the first settlers of Rutland. At the very first town meeting, July 30, 1722, he was chosen one of the Highway Surveyors and continued with a few exceptions to hold that office till 1747. I was in Worcester and saw by records that William Finton had a son John in Boston, possibly. The family lived there before they came to Rutland. I suppose you saw the record in the Register's office, where William gives to his son John some property in Rutland. In 1723 the Indians troubled the settlers so that about two-thirds of them left and the remaining third had a hard time of it. I copied the enclosed petition which you will see is signed by William Fenton. The original is in Boston in the archives and I believe the signatures are autographs. If I am in Boston some time I will get a copy of it if you desire it.

Oakham Church records give no early data of the church and no names of members.

In town records I find that William Finton lived here in 1753. In a warrant this article appears: "Art. 6. To see if the town will prosecute William Finton in the law for the money they have expended in supporting his daughter, Agnis Galt." Voted to prosecute William Finton—

Agnis Fenton married Adam Galt of Worcester. As no reference is made to him in the records he either died or left

town. I was anxious to see what money was spent in her support and found the account presented at a meeting Sept. 23, 1751, which I copy and enclose. Besides this several other payments were made for rent, wood and caring for the child, and one charge of Nathan Davis "for carriage of Agnis Galt's goods to the School House, £0.2.8.

I do not find that William Finton was prosecuted, for at the same meeting such action was taken against others for similar reasons and mention made later of settlements. Whether William Fenton died or left Rutland about this time I cannot tell, but no more does his name appear on the records. I hope these sketches of lots will be clear to you and that you will feel free to ask for further information. I am,

Thanks for the pamphlet.

Respectfully yours,

LOUIS M. HANFF,
Town Clerk.

List of Books, Records, Libraries, Cemeteries and Officials Consulted.

In Rutland, Vt.

- Rutland, Vt., Probate Court.
- " " City Clerk's Vital Statistic books.
- " " Registry of Deeds.
- " " Congregational Church records.
- " " Memorial Library.
- " " Congregational Cemetery (Abandoned).
- " " North Rutland Cemetery (Abandoned).
- " " West Street Cemetery (Abandoned).
- " " Rutland Township records.
- " " Baxter Library with Vt. (Deming's)
State records.

Town Clerk of Pittsford, Vt.

History of Town of Pittsford, Vt.

Files of Rutland Herald, 1796-1808, Rutland, Vt.

Statutes of Vermont.

Old City Directory, Rutland County.

In New York, in Lenox, Astor, Union League, Union Theological Seminary and N. Y. Genealogical and Biographical Society Libraries:

Fifty-two volumes New England Hist. and Genl. Registry.

White's Dictionary of American Biography.

Holland's History of Western Mass.

Genealogy of the Bigelow Family.

Genealogy of the Fenton Family by Wheeler.

Connecticut Historical Soc. Vol. 8, Revy. Soldiers.

Miss Larned's Hist. of Windham Co., Conn.

Hist. 1st Congregational Ch., Mansfield, Conn.

Hist. Chatauqua Co., N. Y.

Hist. of Palmer, Mass.

Hist. Brimfield, Mass.

Hist. Yates Co., New York.

Conn. family Genealogy.

“ Illustrated Popular Biography.

“ Adj't. Generals' records.

“ Record of Revn., 1775 to 1783.

“ General Assembly Record.

“ General Biography.

“ Hist. of Hollister.

Bailey's Early Mass. Marriages.

Rice's Worcester Marriages.

“ “ Births.

“ “ Deaths.

Worcester Warnings to Strangers.

Hampshire Co., Mass., Gazetteer.

“ “ “ Evert's Hist. of.

“ “ Illustrated.

The Worcester Book—Rice.

Worcester Probate Court.

“ Registry of Deeds.

Rice's History of Worthington;

And many other books relating to New England in the colonial times and subsequent periods.

Also

Mass. Vital Statistics, Pelham.

“ “ “ New Braintree.

“ “ “ Roxbury.

“ “ “ Holden.

Mass. Vital Statistics, Palmer.
 " " " Barre.
 " " " Somerville.
 " " " Rutland.
 " " " Oakham.
 Bacon's Address—Palmyra, N. Y., 1876.
 History of Chenango Co., N. Y., by Smith.
 " " " " " " Clark.
 " " Wayne " " " Cowles.
 Palmyra Church Records.
 Rutland, Mass., by Phillips.
 " Monumental Inscriptions.
 Conn. Histl. Soc. Family Genealogies.
 " Flagg's History.
 " Hoadley's Public Records.
 Massachusetts Revolutionary Soldiers and Sailors.
 New England General Register.
 Charlestown, Mass., Genealogies.
 Many volumes of Boston Records.
 Northampton Probate Court.
 " Register of Deeds.
 " Two Public Libraries, Clark Memorial and
 Forbes.
 Washington, D. C., Congressional Library.
 Springfield, Mass., Probate Court.
 " " Register of Deeds.
 Rutland, Mass., Town Clerk's Records.
 " " Congl. Ch. Records.
 " " Book of Births, Marriages, &c.
 " " Rutland Public Library.
 " " Jonas Reed's Hist. Rutland.
 Ireland under English Rule—Lewis.
 McCarthy's Irish Hist.
 Wright's History of Ireland.
 Froude's Ireland.
 " English in Ireland.
 Hill's Ireland.
 Jervis's Hist. Ireland.
 Hist. Irish Rebellion 1798—Maxwell.
 Lawless' Ireland.
 Worcester, Mass., Burial Grounds, Inscriptions.
 " " Lincoln's Hist. of.

Worcester, Mass., County Court records—Genl. Sessions.
 “ “ Rice’s Hist. “The Worcester Book”—
 Diary.
 “ “ Ammidown’s Hist. of.
 “ “ Jewett’s Hist. of.
 “ “ Hurd’s Hist. of.
 “ “ Rufus Putman’s Map, 1785.
 “ “ Waring’s (Hist. or Map) Rice, 1737
 to 1788.
 “ “ Atlas of—Richards’.
 Rutland, in North Western Genealogical Quarterly.
 History of Hardwick, Mass.
 “ “ Hampshire Co., Mass.
 Charlestown, Mass., Genealogies.
 Rutland, Mass., Indian troubles.
 Fenton’s Journey—U. S. Library, Washington, D. C.
 Map of Massachusetts Townships.
 History of Pelham, Mass.
 “ “ Worcester, by Blake.
 “ “ Eastern Vt., by Hall.
 Worcester Historical Magazine.
 History of Vermont, by Thompson.
 “ “ Middlesex Co., Mass.
 Irish Pedigrees.
 Mss. Trinity College, Dublin.
 McDermott’s Map of Ireland.
 Welsh names in Ireland—No Fenton.
 Plantation of Ulster—Hill.
 State of Protestants under James.
 Two Centuries of Irish History.
 Memorial Map of Ireland.
 Hanna’s Scotch-Irish.
 Harrison’s Scotts in Ulster—Congl. Library only.
 Perry’s Scotch-Irish.
 Green’s Pamphlet—Scotch-Irish in America.
 History of Connecticut River Valley.
 “ “ Rockingham Co., N. H.
 “ “ Londonderry, N. H.—Parker.
 Three Cemeteries in New Braintree, Mass.
 Cemetery at Old Brimfield, Mass.
 “ “ Rutland, Mass.
 “ “ Wales, Mass.

THOMAS ATKYNS—?
of Sandwich, England.
In prime of life, 1616.
Yeoman.

ANDREW ATKINS—ANNA.
bapt'd June 20th, 1619. Also
Sandwich, Eng'd.

ANDREW ATKINS—SARA.
bapt'd June 16th, 1660. Also
Sandwich, Eng'd.

JOSEPH ATKINS—MARY DUDLEY
b. Nov. 1, 1680. (widow Wainwright).
d. Jan. 21, 1773. b. Nov. 2, 1692.
Merchant. d. Nov. 12, 1774.
Newburyport, Mass. m. about 1730.

DUDLEY ATKINS—SARAH KENT.
b. 1731. b. 1731.
d. Sept. 24, 1767. d. Oct., 1810.
Harvard, 1748. m. May 4, 1752.
Merchant, Newburyport.

DUDLEY ATKINS (Tyng)—SARAH HIGGINSON.
b. Sept. 3, 1760. b. June 11, 1766.
d. Aug. 1, 1829. d. Nov. 2, 1808.
Lawyer, Collector of New- in. Oct. 18, 1792.
buryport.
Harvard, 1780.

DUDLEY ATKINS, M. D.—ANN MARIA BOWMAN.
b. June 12, 1798. b. Aug. 24, 1801.
d. Apl. 6, 1846. d. Feb. 22, 1881.
Harvard, 1816. m. Aug. 28, 1826.
University of Penn., M. D.,
1820.

THOS. ASTLEY ATKINS—JULIA FLENTON ROCKWELL.
b. Apl. 8, 1839. b. Oct. 26, 1841.
Lawyer; Judge at Yon- in. Oct. 26, 1860.
kers, N. Y. d. Aug. 30th, 1911.
Harvard, 1860.

Astley Atkins, b. Aug. 11, 1861.
Kate Atkins, b. Jan. 10, 1869.

GOV'R. THOMAS DUDLEY—CATH HACKBURN.
b. 1576. d. 1671.
d. July 31, 1653.
Harvard, 1651.

GOV'R. JOSEPH DUDLEY—REBECCA TYNG.
b. Sept. 23, 1647. b. 1651.
d. Apl. 2, 1720. d. Sept. 21, 1722.
Harvard, 1665.

REV'D. JOHN HIGGINSON—ELIZABETH.
Claybrooke, Eng. Vicar.
d. 1624.

REV'D. FRANCIS HIGGINSON—ANNA.
b. 1586. b. 1586.
d. 1630. d. 1630.
University of Cambridge,
Eng'd, A. B., A. M.

REV'D. JOHN HIGGINSON—SARAH WHITFIELD.
Claybrooke, Massachusetts.
b. 1616.
d. 1708.

L'T. COL. JOHN HIGGINSON—SARAH SAVAGE.
Salem, Mass. b. 1653.
b. 1646. d.
d. 1719.
Member of Council.

JOHN HIGGINSON—MARGARET SEWALL.
Salem, Mass.
b. 1675.
d. 1718.
Merchant.

STEPHEN HIGGINSON—ELIZABETH CABOT.
Salem, Mass. m. 1743.
b. 1716. b. 1710.
d. 1761. d.

STEPHEN HIGGINSON—SUSANNA CLEVELAND.
b. 1743. b. 1741.
d. 1828. d. 1788.
Member of Continental
Congress; Navy Offi-
cer, Continental Ser-
vice.

NATHANIEL BOWMAN—ANNE.
b. 1600. Moved to Lexington.
Freeman, 1630.
d. 1682, Jan. 21.
Watertown, Mass.

FRANCIS BOWMAN—MARTHA PORTER SHERMAN.
b. 1630.
d. Dec. 16, 1687.
m. Sept. 26, 1661.

JOSEPH BOWMAN—PHOEBE.
b. May 18, 1674.
d. April 8, 1762.
Office holder and Farmer.

THADDEUS BOWMAN—SYBIL ROPER.
b. Sept. 2, 1712. m. 2nd (Widow of Isaac
d. May 26, 1806. W. Woolson of Wes-
At Battle of Lexington, son, Mass.), Feby. 8,
1775. 1763.

EBENEZER BOWMAN—ESTHER ANN WATSON.
b. July 3, 1767. b. Newry, Ireland, Apl. 29,
d. Mar. 1, 1829. 1777.
Lawyer. d. July 21, 1848.
Harvard, 1782. m. Nov. 10, 1796.

SAMUEL TOWNLEY—
Newry, Ireland; born in
England; battle of Pres-
ton Pans; a Jacobite.

JAMES WATSON—JANE TOWNLEY.
d. at Cork, Ireland. d. 1786.
Feby., 1807.
d. 1786.
Captain in British
Service.

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